2

FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

Higurashi

WHEN THEY CRY

STORY BY
RYUKISHI07

ART BY
KARIN SUZURAGI

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

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Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC 2

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PI
PI
PI
PI
PI
(BEEP)
PI

CHAPTER 10: THE PRIESTESS OF OYASHIRO-SAMA

BUT NOW...

I SWORE I WOULD SAVE SATOSHI-KUN AND SATOKO-CHAN.

I SWORE I WOULD HELP THEM...

PI
PI
PI
PI
PI

SHE HAS NO HOPE OF RECOVERY.

AND HER SYMPTOMS HAVE REACHED LEVEL FIVE.

...SATOKO-CHAN IS DEFINITELY BEING AFFECTED BY HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

...WILL LOSE HER LIFE TO THE DISEASE.

IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, SATOKO-CHAN...

AND NOT ONLY THAT...

EITHER WAY...

...IS MOVING AHEAD WITH PREPARATIONS TO DISSECT SATOKO-CHAN.

...TO FURTHER THE RESEARCH ON HINAMI-ZAWA SYNDROME, TAKANO-SAN...

...I WILL HAVE TO DISSECT HER WHILE SHE'S STILL ALIVE.

ONCE EVERY-THING IS READY...

OR WILL I DISSECT HER MYSELF?

WILL I STAND BY AND LET SATOKO-CHAN DIE?

GU (CLENCH)

7!

...

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ピ
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ピ
ピ
(BEEP)

...I HAVE ...

...NO WAY TO SAVE HER.

CHAPTER 10: THE PRIESTESS OF OYASHIRO-SAMA

カナカナカナ ooo

KANA

KANA

KANA (CHIRP)

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

入江診療所

NO VISITORS!?

IS SATOKO'S CONDITION THAT BAD!?

SO WE WANT HER TO REST IN A QUIET ENVIRONMENT, THAT'S ALL.

NO... SHE'S STILL IN SHOCK FROM LOSING YOUR PARENTS.

...I SEE...

HER CONDITION ISN'T BAD AT ALL.

...TO CUT OPEN SATOKO-CHAN'S BRAIN...

...PLANS ARE MOVING FORWARD...

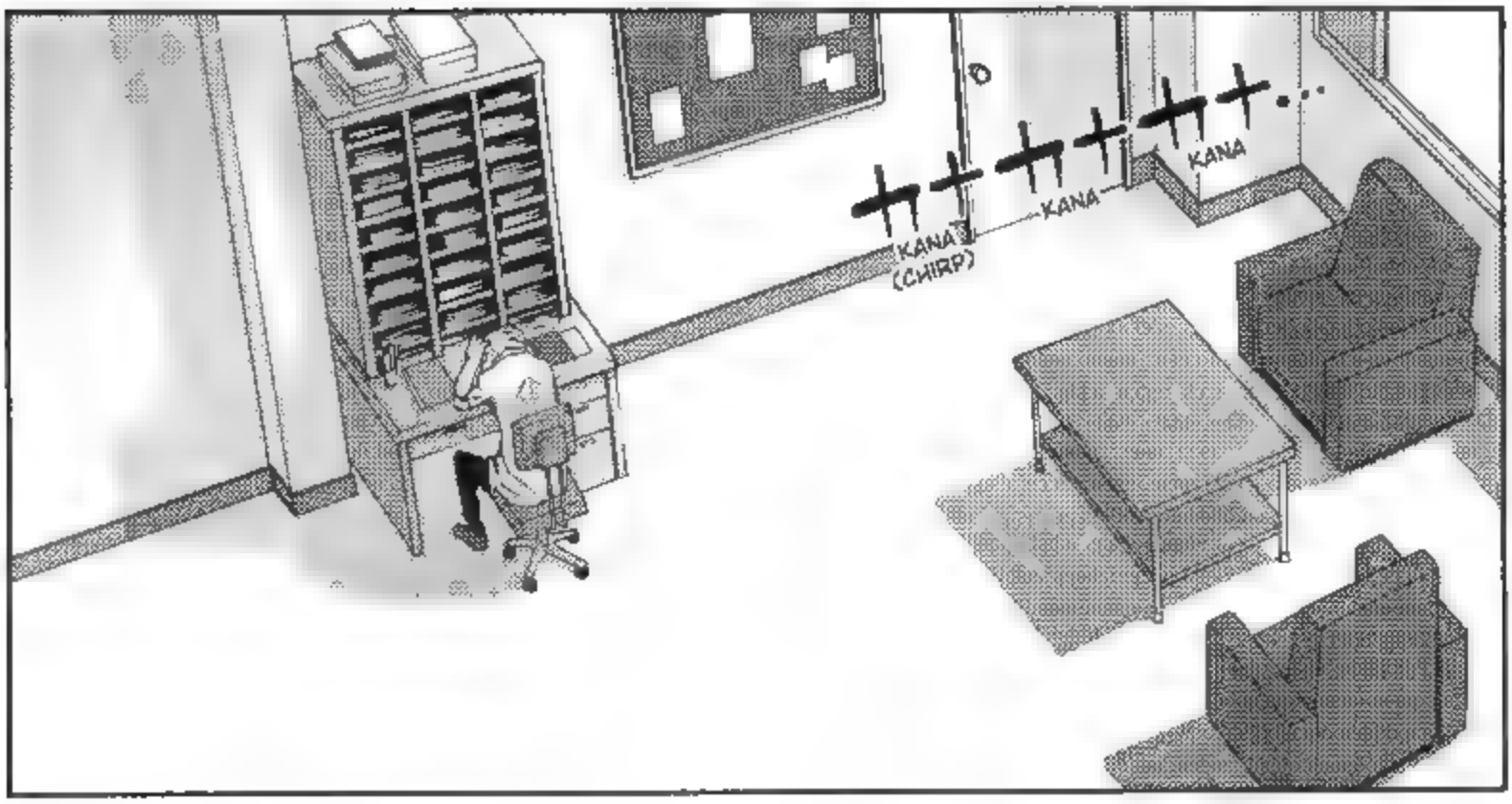
I CAN'T TELL HIM... THAT HERE IN THIS CLINIC...

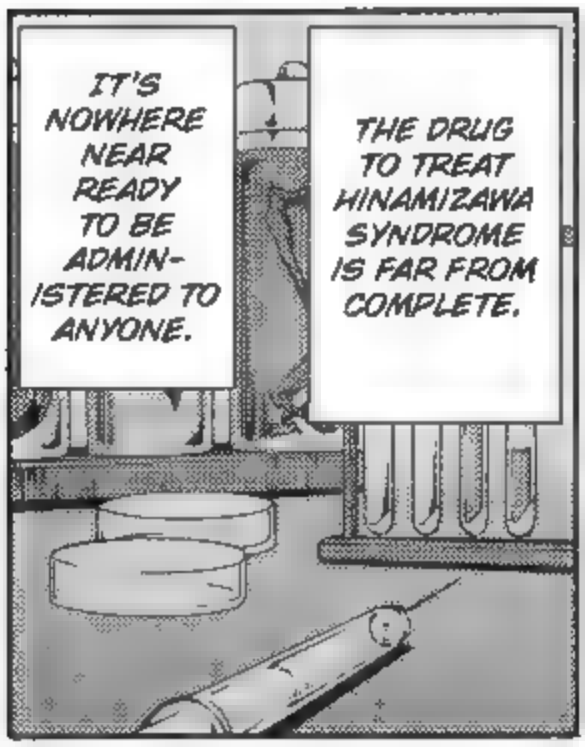
GL (GRIT)

PI

PI (BEEP)

PI


KANA
(CHIRP)
KANA
KANA


IT'S NOWHERE NEAR READY TO BE ADMIN-ISTERED TO ANYONE.
THE DRUG TO TREAT HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME IS FAR FROM COMPLETE.

WHAT CAN I DO TO SAVE HER?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

コン
KON
コン
KON
(KNOCK)
ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO SAVE HER?

ガタン
GATAN (CLATTER)

TAKANO-SAN...

カチャ
KACHA (KACHAK)

EXCUSE ME, DR. IRIE.

YES.

IS IT ABOUT SATOKO-CHAN?

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

WE'VE RECEIVED CLEARANCE FROM TOKYO.

SATOKO HOJO'S VIVISECTION WILL BE PERFORMED TOMORROW.

NO... IT'S TOO SOON...

GYU (CLENCH)

WHAT... TOMOR-ROW !?

GATA (CLATTER)

BADGE: PREFECTURAL POLICE

THE POLICE STILL WANT TO ASK SATOKO-CHAN ABOUT THE ACCIDENT.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S DANGER-OUS TO RUSH INTO THE OPERATION !?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE POLICE.

IF WE DISSECT HER AND TREAT HER AS DEAD, THEY'LL SUSPECT US!

BUT—

KA (CLACK)

ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS INSIDE THIS CLINIC CAN BE COVERED UP.

OKONOGI AND THE OTHER WILD DOGS HAVE STRONG CONNECTIONS WITH THEM.

NOW LOOK HERE, LITTLE BOY.

I'M NOT ASKING FOR YOUR OPINION.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TOMORROW ...

THE MATTER HAS ALREADY BEEN SETTLED.

...IS OPEN UP SATOKO HOJO'S BRAIN.

SHE'S LIVING IN THE FINAL STAGES OF THE DISEASE; THAT MAKES HER THE BEST POSSIBLE SPECIMEN FOR OUR RESEARCH.

BY DISSECTING HER BRAIN WHILE SHE'S STILL ALIVE, WE CAN MAKE HUGE ADVANCES ... IN OUR UNDER-STANDING OF H NAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

.....

WE WILL DISSECT SATOKO HOJO WITHOUT YOU.

IF YOU STILL HAVE RESERVA-TIONS ABOUT THE OPERATION, I WON'T STOP YOU. YOU CAN LEAVE.

カッ

カッ

カッ

カナカナカナ

カナカナカナ

AND IT WON'T JUST BE ONE OPERATION.

SATOKO-CHAN'S OPERATION IS TOMORROW

SATOKO-CHAN WILL GO THROUGH THE SAME PROCESS.

... WE KEPT HIM ALIVE FOR A FEW MONTHS FOR EXPERI-MENTATION.

AFTER WE DISSECTED THAT MAN...

SHE'LL BE TURNED INTO A LIVING CORPSE...

... TO UNDERGO MONTHS OF CRUEL EXPERIMENTS.

...WANTING TO SAVE SATOKO-CHAN AFTER OPERATING ON THAT OTHER MAN.

MAYBE IT'S SELFISH OF ME...

BUT...

.....

...I CAN'T PUT SATOKO-CHAN THROUGH THAT.

ぬぅ
ぬぬぬ

THERE'S NO TIME.
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO.

I'LL TAKE SATOKO-CHAN...
...AND GET OUT OF HINAMIZAWA.

IT WON'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT SHE'LL DIE.

OF COURSE, EVEN IF WE DO GET AWAY, I WON'T BE ABLE TO CURE SATOKO-CHAN'S TERMINAL SYMPTOMS.

BUT WHATEVER ELSE MAY COME, RIGHT NOW I HAVE TO STOP THE OPERATION.

STILL...

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME EXCUSE TO GET SATOKO-CHAN OUTSIDE.

SECURITY IS TIGHT, BUT I'M THE DIRECTOR OF THIS FACILITY.

IF THEY FIND OUT WHAT I'M DOING...

...THEY'RE SURE TO KILL ME.

.....

IRIE.

ドキン
DOKIN (BADUM)

I HAVE TO GET TO THE CLINIC. NOW.

I CAN'T WASTE TIME BEING AFRAID.

ザ
ZA (ISH)

WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING, IRIE?

I'M ON A WALK, SIR.

ピトッ

NIPAAA BEAM

WH-WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT HERE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

I-I...

YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE SATOKO OUT OF THE CLINIC, AREN'T YOU, SIR?

!!

H-HOW...?

IRIE.

SATOKO ...

...HAS HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME, DOESN'T SHE, SIR?

WHA ...!!?

I'VE TOLD RIKA-SAN ABOUT OUR HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME RESEARCH.

BUT I NEVER TOLD HER ANYTHING ABOUT SATOKO-CHAN.

MUCH LESS ABOUT MY PLAN TO ESCAPE WITH HER.

H-HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?

OYASHIRO-SAMA SEES ALL, SIR.

ぱぱ～

NIPAAA BEAM!

BUT...

IRIE... SATOKO IS MY BEST FRIEND, SIR.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER, SIR.

...I HAD HEARD THAT RIKA-SAN IS THE REINCARNATION OF OYASHIRO-SAMA...

...AND THAT SHE HAS THE ABILITY TO SEE THE FUTURE.

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. SHE MAY BE THE QUEEN CARRIER, BUT THAT WOULDN'T GIVE HER THAT KIND OF POWER.

...YES. THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU WERE TRYING TO TAKE HER OUT OF THE CLINIC TO SAVE HER FROM THAT WEREN'T YOU, SIR?

.....

IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DO BAD THINGS TO HER BECAUSE OF HER ILLNESS ISN'T THAT RIGHT SIR?

IF YOU RUN AWAY WITH HER, WILL THAT SAVE SATOKO, SIR?

...NO.

SATOKO-CHAN'S ILLNESS IS INCURABLE.

I DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE SATOKO-CHAN.

.....

IF YOU TAKE HER AWAY, TAKANO AND THE OTHERS WON'T FORGIVE YOU.

IF THEY FIND YOU, THEY'LL YELL AT YOU, IRIE, SIR.

...EVEN SO, I...

GYU (CLENCH)

YES...

...AND THEY WON'T STOP AT JUST "YELLING."

...I CAN'T SIT BACK AND LET HER DIE.

ZAAAA ZSHHH

.....

MY FATHER ...

HE ABUSED MY MOTHER.

...BECAME MENTALLY ILL BECAUSE OF BRAIN DAMAGE.

AND SHE DIED HATING HIM TO THE BITTER END.

I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP EITHER OF THEM.

...AND NOW HERE I AM AGAIN.

SO I WANT TO AT LEAST STOP THEM FROM PUTTING SATOKO-CHAN THROUGH THAT NIGHT-MARE.

I SWORE I WOULD HELP SATOSHI-KUN AND SATOKO-CHAN, BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.

POTA (DRIP)

POTA "

I'M POWER-LESS.

THIS IS ALL I CAN DO...

ZAAAA (ZSHHH)

YOU TOLD ME YOU LEARNED A LOT FROM STUDYING MY BODY.

... IRIE.

CAN'T YOU USE WHAT YOU LEARNED TO MAKE MEDICINE FOR SATOKO, SIR?

Y... YES.

I THOUGHT OF THAT.

BUT THE DRUG IS STILL IN THE TESTING PHASE. IT'S FAR TOO RISKY TO USE IT ON PEOPLE.

IF ONLY WE COULD GET MORE DATA AND DEVELOP THE DRUG FURTHER...

Y-YES?

YOU NEED DATA, SIR?

CAN YOU MAKE MEDICINE IF YOU GET ENOUGH DATA, SIR?

IF WE COULD GET SOME USEFUL DATA, THEN IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE ...

BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE WE CAN GET THAT DATA.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY TAKANO-SAN WANTS TO DISSECT SATOKO-CHAN— TO GET MORE DATA.

ALL RIGHT, IRIE.

OPEN UP MY HEAD.
TO GET YOUR DATA.

THE BOSS-LEVEL PATHOGEN ...

EH...?

...IS INSIDE MY BRAIN, RIGHT?

SO IF YOU CUT OPEN MY HEAD AND LOOK DIRECTLY AT MY BRAIN...

...YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET MUCH MORE DATA.

RIKA-SAN...

WHAT'S GOING ON? ...RIKA-SAN...IS SUDDENLY TALKING LIKE AN ADULT...

W... WELL... YES, BUT...

BUT IT'S TRUE THAT SHE IS THE QUEEN CARRIER.

BUT YOU, IRIE, CAN LOOK INTO MY BRAIN AND MAKE SURE I STAY ALIVE, RIGHT?

OF COURSE, I WOULD HATE FOR YOU TO KILL ME.

IF WE CAN FIND IT, THAT WOULD LEAD TO ENORMOUS PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING A CURE.

THERE SHOULD BE SOMETHING LIVING IN HER BRAIN THAT SUPPRESSES THE SYMPTOMS OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

...BUT...

B-BUT CUTTING OPEN YOUR SKULL WOULD TAKE A TERRIBLE TOLL ON YOU, RIKA-SAN.

AND TO BE HONEST...

...I CAN'T BE 100% SURE THAT THERE WON'T BE ANY DANGER TO YOUR LIFE.

IF ANYONE CAN DO IT, YOU CAN, IRIE.

IT WILL BE FINE.

IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN DURING THE OPERATION—

I KNOW BECAUSE YOU CRIED FOR SATOKO.

THE REASON YOU CAN'T BEAR THAT WEIGHT...
IS BECAUSE IN YOUR HEART YOU WANT TO TREASURE HUMAN LIFE

YOU AREN'T LIKE THEM! YOU CAN ONLY SEE PEOPLE AS GUINEA PIGS

MEDICINE IS CREATED FROM PEOPLE'S HEARTS.

...YOUR FEELINGS OF WANTING TO SAVE OTHERS TRICKLE DOWN FROM INSIDE YOU, AND THOSE FEELINGS HEAL DISEASES.

THIS IS FOR SATOKO. I CAN OFFER MY BODY FOR HER.

トン...
TON (TAP)

YOU KNOW THE TRUE WEIGHT OF LIFE...

...AND YOU LIVE EVERY DAY REFUSING TO FORGET YOUR REGRET AND GUILT. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO EXTRACT SOMETHING FROM ME...

...THEN IT'S GUARANTEED TO WORK ON SATOKO.

ス…

.....

I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU...

...WITH MYSELF AND WITH SATOKO.

HER VOICE IS SO SINCERE, SO CALM.

RIKA-SAN...

IT'S AS IF SHE ALREADY KNOWS THE WEIGHT OF A HUMAN LIFE.

SO UNLIKE ANYONE HER AGE...

THAT'S WHAT I HEAR IN HER VOICE.

MAYBE SHE REALLY IS THE REINCARNATION OF OYASHIRO-SAMA...

SHE BELIEVES IN ME WITH ALL HER HEART.

ONE THING IS CLEAR.

H'...

GU (CLENCH)

ME, THE POWERLESS MAN WITH BLOOD ON HIS HANDS.

THEN I KNOW WHAT I MUST DO.

INSTEAD

ALL RIGHT, RIKA-SAN.

LET'S STOP THE OPERATION.

...I WILL CURE SATOKO-CHAN.

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

HOW COULD YOU FILE A REQUEST TO CANCEL THE OPERATION!?

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, DR. IRIE!?

...EXACTLY AS I STATED IN MY REQUEST.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING!

C103!? YOU WANT TO WORK ON *THAT* IN-COMPLETE MESS!?

...AND INSTEAD WE WILL IMPROVE THE DRUG C103 AND USE HER TO TEST IT.

WE WILL CANCEL THE DISSECTION OF SATOKO HOJO...

AND JUST HOW DO YOU PLAN TO IMPROVE IT!?

TOKYO WOULD NEVER APPROVE THAT!

I'M GOING TO HELP HIM, SIR.

!!

WHY ARE YOU... WEARING THAT...?

IRIE'S GOING TO DISSECT ME...

...SO HE CAN LOOK INSIDE MY HEAD, SIR.

YOU'RE GOING TO OPEN HER SKULL!? THE QUEEN CARRIER!?

SHE AGREED TO HELP IF WE PROMISED TO CANCEL SATOKO-CHAN'S OPERATION AND CONDUCT DRUG TESTS ON HER INSTEAD.

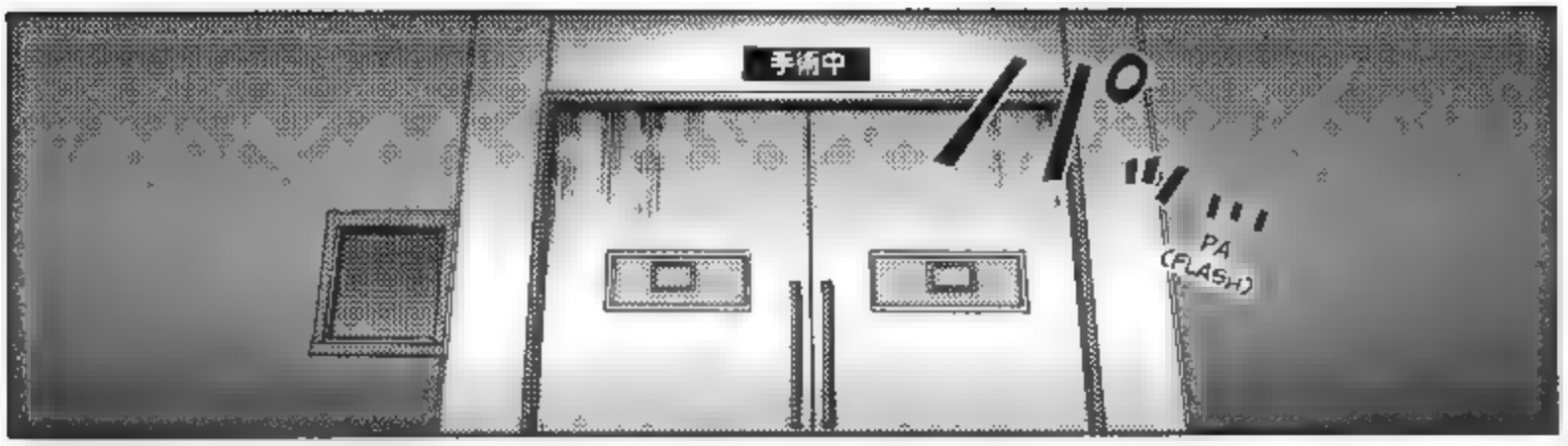
AND RIKA-SAN HAS ALREADY GOTTEN PERMISSION FROM HER PARENTS.

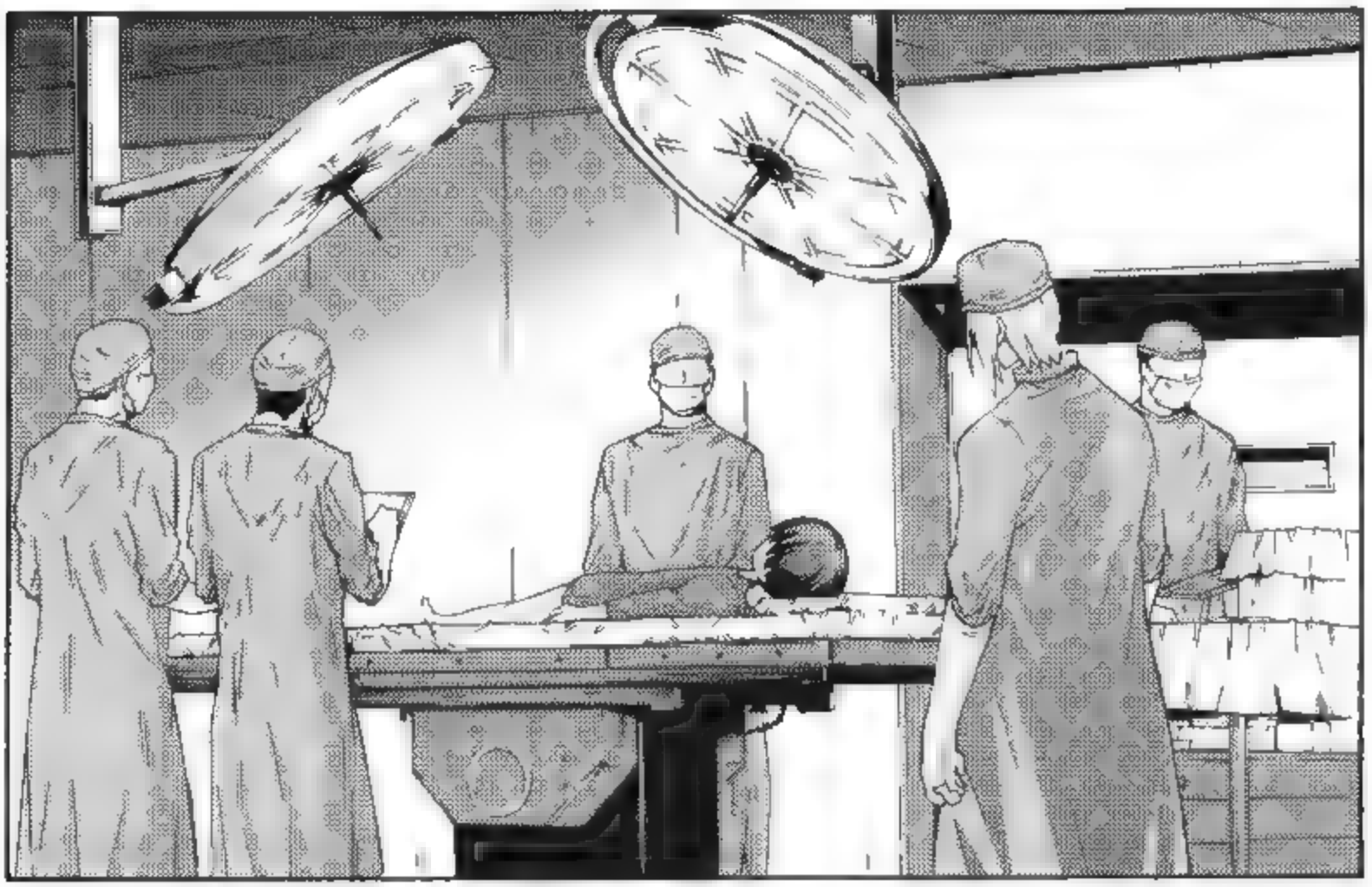
THE DATA WE GAIN FROM RIKA-SAN SHOULD GIVE US A FOOTHOLD TO MAKING HUGE ADVANCES IN OUR RESEARCH.

THAT SHOULD CONVINCE TOKYO.

...GH...

SIGN: OPERATION IN PROGRESS





ONCE THAT HAPPENS, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO TREAT HER WITH ANY KIND OF CURE.

SATOKO-CHAN'S SYMPTOMS COULD PEAK AT ANY TIME.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, SIR.

WE HAVE TO HURRY AND IMPROVE THE DRUG BEFORE WE GET TO THAT POINT.

FOR RIKA-SAN TOO...

I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT, IRIE.

IT'S ALL BEEN DECIDED, SIR.

YES, SIR.

IS THAT A DIVINE REVELATION TOO?

THAT'S VERY ENCOURAGING TO HEAR.

YES...I HAVE TO LIVE UP TO RIKA-SAN'S TRUST IN ME.

KA (FLASH)

I WILL CURE SATOKO-CHAN...!!

CHAPTER 11: THE ACCIDENT AT SHIRAKAWA PARK

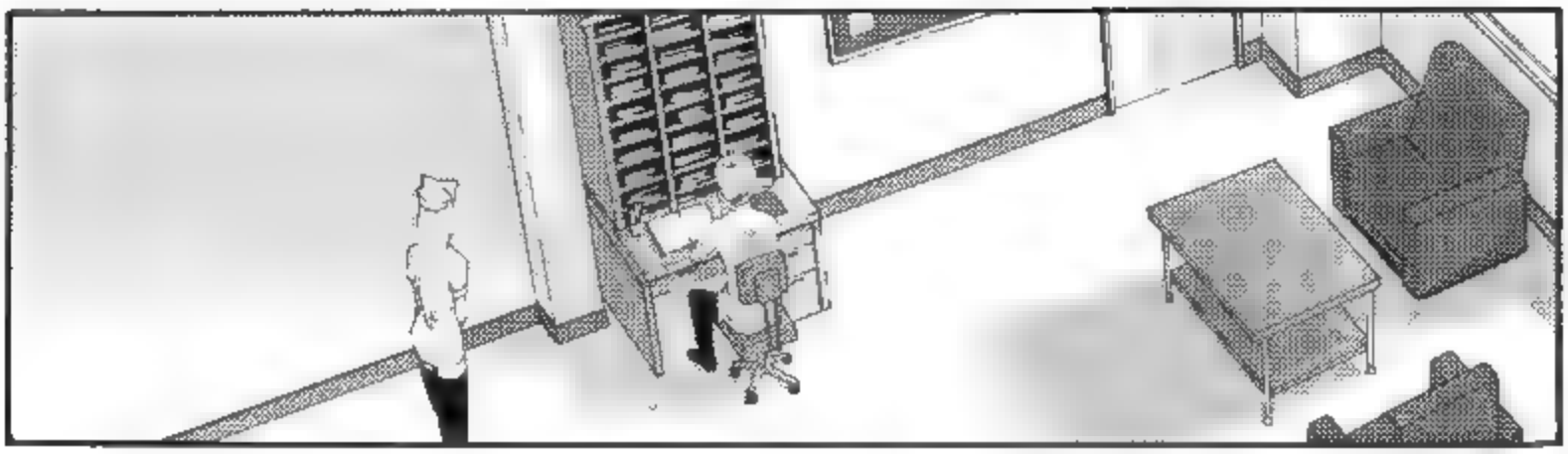
...I SET ABOUT IMPROVING THE DRUG THAT COULD CURE SATOKO-CHAN.

WITH RIKA-SAN'S HELP...

...AND WE RAN A CLINICAL TRIAL ON SATOKO-CHAN.

SOON, THE TEST DRUG CIO3 REACHED A STAGE WHERE IT COULD BE ADMINISTERED TO HUMANS...

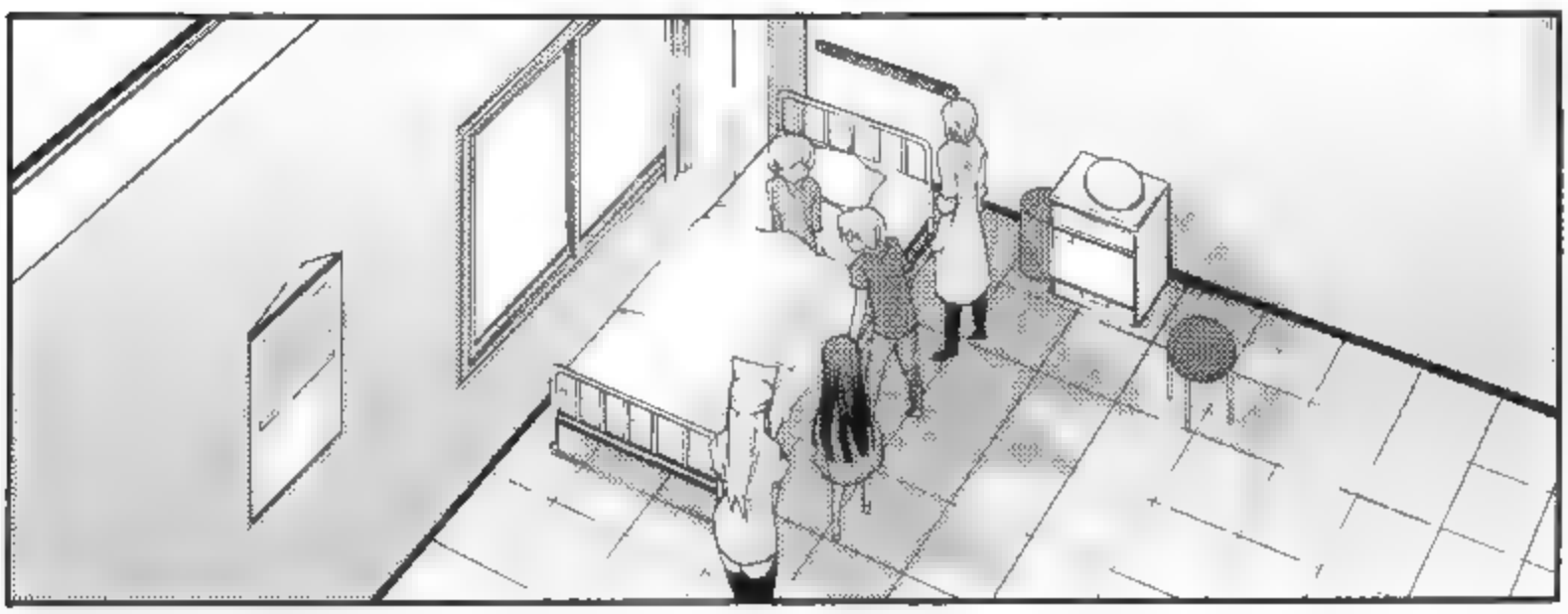
SOME TIME AFTER THE START OF THE TRIAL...



I HAVE TO TAKE MY HAT OFF...
...TO YOU AND YOUR SKILL, DR. IRIE.

YES.
...YOU MEAN ...?

SATOKO HOJO IS NO LONGER IN THE TERMINAL STAGES.



IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD BEING STUCK IN A HOSPITAL BED FOR SO LONG, SATOKO-CHAN.

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GO HOME SOON.

BUT IT'S ALL SOLVED NOW.

THERE WAS A BIT OF A PROBLEM INSIDE YOU.

I DON'T HURT ANYWHERE.

WHY DID I HAVE TO STAY IN THE CLINIC FOR SO LONG?

THANK YOU SO MUCH, SENSEI!!

MEW! THAT SICKNESS HASN'T BEEN CURED, SIR.

I NEED TO GET OUTSIDE AND SET UP NEW TRAPS ON THE BACK MOUNTAIN.

HONESTLY, I AM JUST SICK AND TIRED OF THIS BED.

AH-HA-HA-HA!

BUT IF WE TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER, SATOKO-CHAN WILL NEVER SUCCUMB TO THE TERMINAL SYMPTOMS AGAIN.

UNFOR-TUNATELY, WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FULLY CURE HER.

WHAT A RELIEF. WE MANAGED TO PULL SATOKO-CHAN FROM THE FINAL STAGES DOWN TO LEVEL THREE.

I WAS ABLE TO PROTECT THEM BOTH.

BUT SHE'S NOT FULLY CURED.
MEW. YOU MADE THE MEDICINE, SIR.
WE NEVER WOULD HAVE MADE IT THIS FAR WITHOUT YOUR HELP, RIKA-SAN.

WE CAN'T TELL HER ABOUT HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME, AFTER ALL.
WE'LL TELL HER THAT SHE'S HELPING ME WITH MY THESIS.

...AND COME TO THE CLINIC EVERY SUNDAY.
IT WON'T BE EASY ON HER...
...BUT WE'LL NEED SATOKO-CHAN TO TAKE THREE SHOTS A DAY...

TELLING HER...
RIGHT...
ZA (ZSH)

...RIKA-SAN?

...WOULD ONLY REOPEN THE DEEP WOUNDS ALREADY IN SATOKO'S HEART.

AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE MEANING BEHIND THOSE WORDS.

BUT SOON, I WOULD LEARN THE TRUE DEPTH OF RIKA-SAN'S INSIGHT...

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

IRIE-
SENSEI.

DETECTIVE
OOISHI.

HE'S COME TO THE CLINIC COUNTLESS TIMES TRYING TO QUESTION SATOKO-CHAN.

THIS MAN IS DETECTIVE OOISHI FROM OKINOMIYA PRECINCT.

YOU AGAIN?

AS I'VE TOLD YOU SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE, SATOKO-CHAN CAN'T HAVE ANY VISITORS.

...THE FALL FROM SHIRAKAWA PARK, THAT COST SATOKO-CHAN HER PARENTS.

HE WANTS TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE ACCIDENT...

I CAN'T LET THIS MAN SEE HER.

IF POLICE QUESTIONING MAKES HER THINK OF THE ACCIDENT...

...IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HER MIND WILL BECOME UNSTABLE AGAIN.

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE ANY GUESSES ABOUT HER SYMPTOMS YET.

I WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO SPEAK WITH SATOKO HOJO-SAN.

WOULD YOU PLEASE LET ME SEE HER?

I CAN BRING A WARRANT IF YOU LIKE.

ONCE SATOKO-CHAN IS DISCHARGED FROM THE CLINIC, OOISHI WILL GO SEE HER AT HER HOME.

IF THAT HAPPENS, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP HER SAFE LIKE WE CAN HERE.

.....

THEN I HAVE TO GET HIM AWAY FROM HER NOW.

WHY ARE YOU SO INTENT ON TALKING TO SATOKO-CHAN?

...ON THE DAY HER PARENTS HAD THE MISFORTUNE OF FALLING FROM THAT BROKEN RAIL INTO THE RIVER...

...SATOKO-CHAN WAS SLEEPING IN THE CAR, IN THE PARKING LOT.

...SO WHAT WOULD YOU ASK HER ABOUT?

YOU'LL ONLY REMIND HER OF THE SHOCK OF LOSING HER PARENTS.

SHE COULDN'T HAVE WITNESSED THE MOMENT THEY FELL.

EH?

THAT'S THE THING.

YOU SEE...

AND THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT SATOKO-SAN SAID THAT I JUST CAN'T GET OUT OF MY MIND.

THIS ACCIDENT IS IN SHIRAKAWA PRECINCT'S JURISDICTION; THEY TOOK STATEMENTS FROM EVERYONE INVOLVED.

I READ THEM.

...I THINK SATOKO-SAN MIGHT BE LYING.

...?

SATOKO-SAN WAS ASLEEP IN THE CAR WHEN THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED.

HER PARENTS ASKED HER TO JOIN THEM ON THE OBSERVATION DECK, BUT SHE REFUSED BECAUSE SHE WAS SO SLEEPY.

LYING? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

. AND AFTER SHE WOKE UP, HER PARENTS HADN'T COME BACK YET. THAT MADE HER NERVOUS, AND SHE STARTED TO CRY

THAT'S WHEN THE PARK EMPLOYEE SPOKE TO HER AND TOLD HER THERE HAD BEEN AN ACCIDENT.

ACCORDING

YOUR POINT?

THERE'S NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT ANY OF THAT

WHERE ARE YOUR MOM AND DAD?

WHAT'S WRONG, LITTLE GIRL?

...MY MOTHER AND FATHER...

...FELL OFF A CLIFF...

ドクン…
DOKUN (B-DUMP)

...W-WELL...
SATOKO-SAN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ASLEEP. SO WHY WOULD HER PARENTS' FAILURE TO RETURN...
...LEAD HER TO CONCLUDE THAT THEY'D FALLEN OFF A CLIFF?

DON'T YOU... THINK THAT'S ODD?

...SHE MAY HAVE SEEN THE BROKEN RA L AND ASSUMED THAT HER PARENTS HAD FALLEN...
EVEN IF SHE DIDN'T WITNESS THE EXACT MOMENT OF THE ACCIDENT ..
M-MAYBE SHE COULD SEE THE ACCIDENT SITE FROM THE CAR?
WHY DO I HAVE SUCH A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...?

...
GHI

BUT EVEN IF SHE COULD HAVE DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE STRANGE THAT SHE WOULD BE SO CERTAIN THAT THEY FELL?

WELL IF SHE HAD LOOKED VERY CAREFULLY, SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TELL THAT THE RAIL WAS BROKEN.

SHE COULDN'T HAVE SEEN THE SITE OF THE ACCIDENT VERY CLEARLY FROM WHERE THE CAR WAS PARKED.

.....

I WONDER IF SATOKO-SAN...

...WENT TO THE OBSERVATION DECK WITH HER PARENTS AND SAW THEM FALL?

!!

WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE A NICE LONG CHAT WITH HER ONCE SHE'S OUT OF THE CLINIC.

...

WHEN THEY QUESTIONED HER AT THE SHIRAKAWA PRECINCT...

...SHE ANSWERED LIKE A POLITICIAN— "I DON'T REMEMBER," "MY MEMORIES ARE ALL MIXED UP."

IN THAT CASE, WHY WOULD SHE LIE ABOUT IT?

NN-FU-FU. SORRY TO HAVE TROUBLED YOU, IRIE-SENSEI.

ZA (ZSH)

ZA

ZA

I ASSUMED THAT SATOKO-CHAN'S TERMINAL SYMPTOMS MANIFESTED ...

...BECAUSE OF THE SHOCK OF HER PARENTS' DEATH.

BUT WHAT IF INSTEAD ...

...IT WAS BECAUSE OF HER POOR RELATION-SHIP WITH THEM?

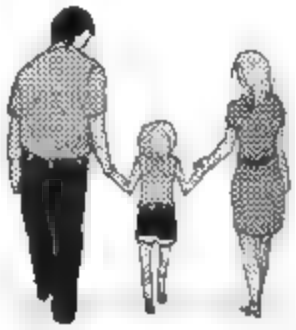
IT CAN'T BE...

DON (THUMP)

THAT WOULD CHANGE THE WHOLE TRUTH BEHIND THIS INCIDENT.

WHAT IF SHE WAS ALREADY IN THE FINAL STAGES BEFORE THE ACCIDENT?

SATOKO-CHAN WENT TO THE OBSERVATION DECK WITH HER PARENTS.



I'M AFRAID DETECTIVE OOISHI MIGHT BE RIGHT.

THE THOUGHTS SWIRLING AROUND INSIDE SATOKO-CHAN'S MIND...

PATIENTS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF THE SYNDROME WILL GO MAD WITH PARANOIA AT THE SLIGHTEST INSTIGATION.

DID YOU BRING ME HERE...

MOTHER, FATHER.

...DO THAT YOU COULD...

...PUSH ME OFF THIS CLIFF?

SATOKO-CHAN'S MIND...

...WAS FILLED WITH A PERSECUTION COMPLEX THAT VERGED ON INSANITY.

THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME.

THEY'RE GOING TO KILL ME.

#!...

GIRI (GRIT)

THEN

...BEFORE THEY DO...

!!!

I'LL KILL THEM!!

七日目
先生！！

HER STEPFATHER WAS TRYING HARD TO GET ALONG WITH HER

AS SATSUKI SAID

OF COURSE SATSUKI CAN'T NOTE HER PARENTS' INTENTION TO KILL THEM.

IT CAN'T BE

THAT'S WHY THEY WENT OUT AS A FAMILY.

BUT MORE THAN THAT, MORE THAN ANYTHING...

AND THE COTTON DRIFTING WAS THAT NIGHT, SO IT MAY HAVE BEEN HARD ON THEM TO BE IN THE VILLAGE THAT DAY.

...AND TO ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL SCENERY WITH HER.

...HER FATHER MUST HAVE WANTED TO MAKE SATOKO-CHAN HAPPY...

WHY?

BUT SHE...

...SHE ...

. . . . .

SUCH A TERRIBLY SAD MISUNDER-STANDING...

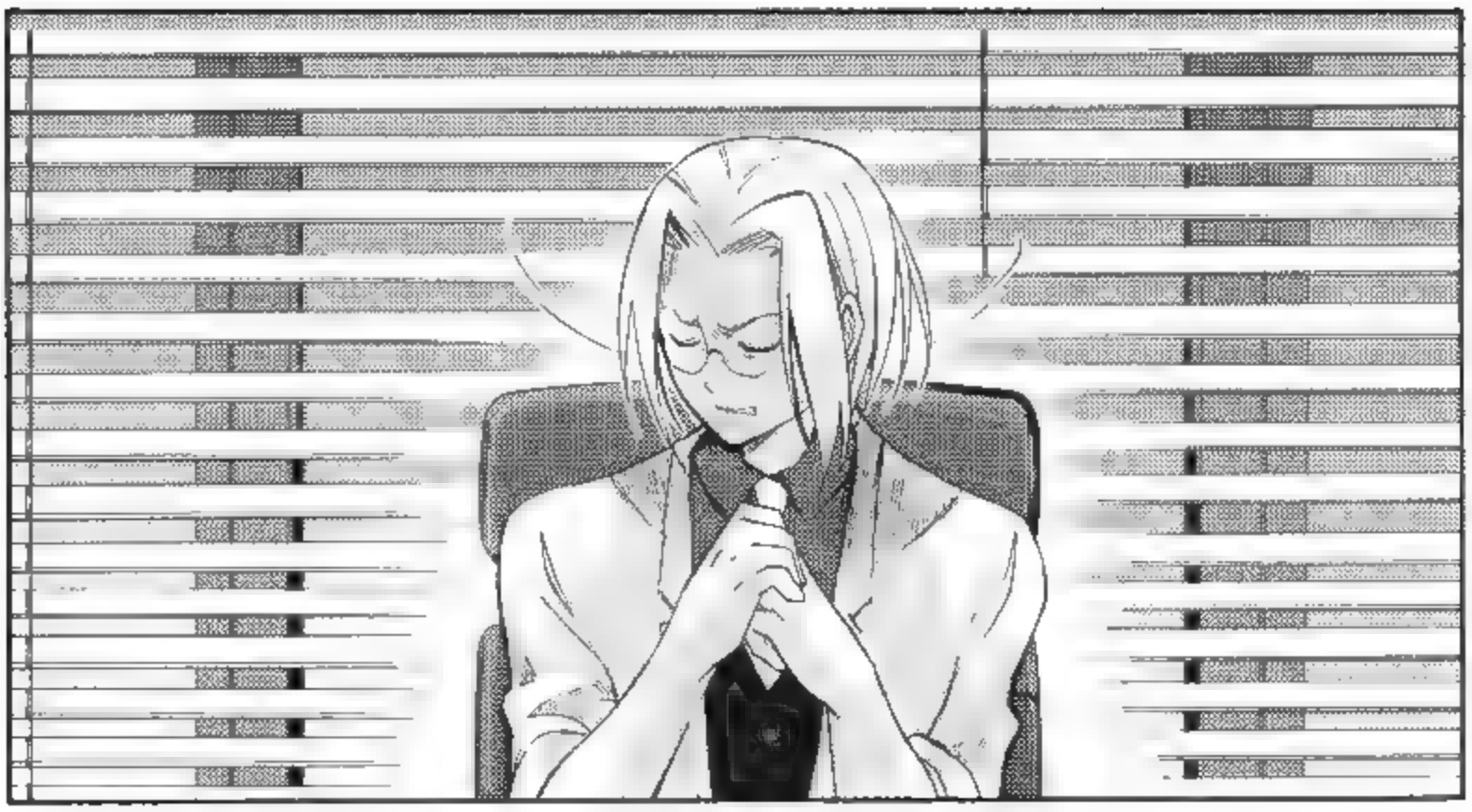
OR SHE'S BURYING THE HATED MEMORIES IN HER SUBCON-SCIOUS...

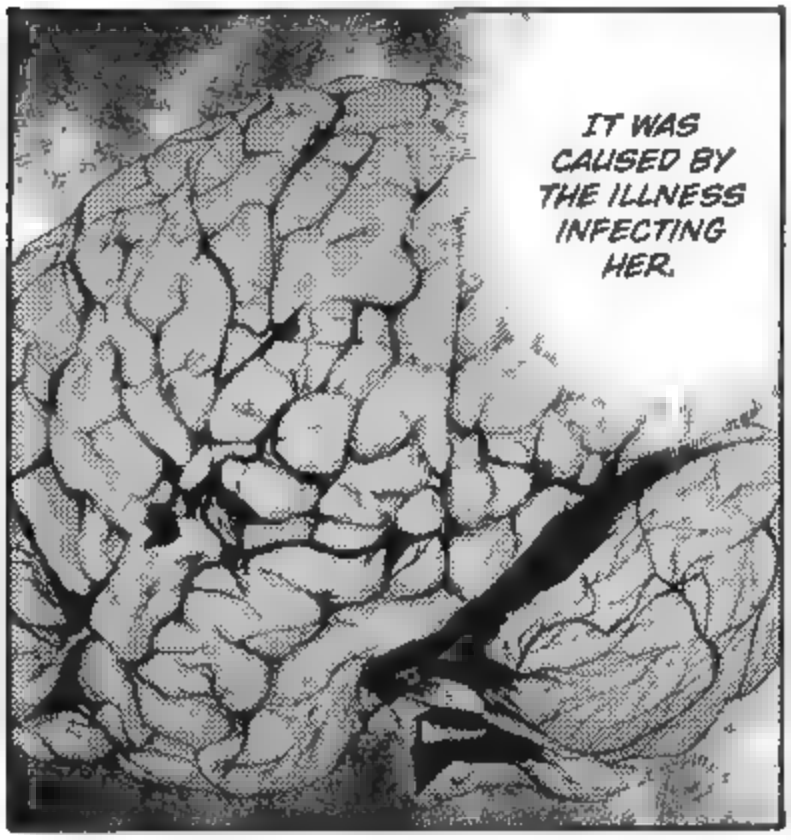
...TRYING HARD NOT TO REMEMBER.

AS SHE TOLD THE POLICE, SATOKO-CHAN'S MEMORIES OF THE ACCIDENT PROBABLY ARE MIXED UP.

DOES SATOKO-CHAN DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED?

SHOULD WE EXPOSE HER CRIME, FORCE HER TO REMEMBER AND ACCEPT PUNISHMENT?




IT WAS CAUSED BY THE ILLNESS INFECTING HER.

BUT THIS CRIME DIDN'T COME FROM SATOKO-CHAN'S TRUE NATURE.
WHEN A CRIME IS COMMITTED OUT OF MALICE, THE CRIMINAL MUST BE JUDGED AND PAY HIS OR HER DEBT TO SOCIETY.

...OR A MURDER.
IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT ...

IT WAS JUST A VERY SAD TRAGEDY.

"WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE A NICE LONG CHAT WITH HER ONCE SHE'S OUT OF THE CLINIC."

...
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN UNDER-STAND THAT.

AS SOMEONE WHO LOST HIS FATHER TO BRAIN DAMAGE AND WHO KNOWS ABOUT HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME
...

AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP HER.

TAKANO-SAN.

WHAT IS IT, DR. IRIE?

IT'S ABOUT THE ACCIDENT AT SHIRAKAWA PARK. WHEN SATOKO-CHAN'S PARENTS FELL FROM THE VIEWING PLATFORM.

WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO PRESSURE THE POLICE...

...INTO CLOSING THIS CASE AS AN ACCIDENT?

THE WILD DOGS SPECIALIZE IN EXACTLY THAT TYPE OF COVER-UP AND FORGERY.

WHY, YES. IT WOULD BE A VERY SIMPLE MATTER.

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

.....

I WOULD ESPECIALLY LIKE TO GET OOISHI-SAN OFF THE CASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF IT.

YES, EXACTLY.

.. THE POLICE WILL GET CLOSE TO OUR GUINEA PIG, AND THAT WOULD INTERFERE WITH OUR RESEARCH.

IT'S TRUE THAT IF THEY DON'T DETERMINE THAT THE FALL WAS AN ACCIDENT...

I WANT SATOKO-CHAN TO RECLAIM HER PEACE OF MIND.

BUT I WILL USE WHATEVER UNDERHANDED METHOD I HAVE TO.

IT'S A DIRTY TACTIC.

I'M USING MY POWER AS DIRECTOR OF THIS FACILITY TO PRESSURE THE POLICE.

KATSUN

I HAVE TO PROTECT HER UNTIL THEN.

KATSUN (CLACK)

AFTER THE ACCIDENT AT SHIRAKAWA PARK...

BUT HER MOTHER'S BODY WAS NEVER FOUND. THEY'RE STILL TREATING HER AS A MISSING PERSON.

...THEY FOUND SATOKO-CHAN'S FATHER'S BODY.

COINCIDENTALLY, FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, THERE WAS AN INCIDENT THAT MATCHED THE LEGENDS OF OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

ONCE AGAIN, ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING, ONE PERSON DIED AND ANOTHER WENT MISSING.

BECAUSE OF IT, EVEN MORE HINAMIZAWANS ARE STARTING TO TALK.

SAYING, "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE STRUCK AGAIN THIS YEAR."

THE ACCIDENT WAS CAUSED BY A CURSE.

THAT'S FINE WITH ME.

THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.

119-1...

I'M COUNTING ON YOU, TAKANO-SAN

BUT WE DID SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOP A CURE, THANKS TO HIM.

AND WE ARE GETTING CLOSER TO UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF H NAMIZAWA SYNDROME, SO I HAVE TO LET THIS SLIDE.

HE'S STILL THE SAME NAIVE MAN WHO GETS TOO ATTACHED TO HIS PATIENTS.

HE MADE AN ESPECIALLY LARGE CONTRIBUTION BY GETTING THE QUEEN CARRIER, RIKA FURUDE, TO GIVE US HER FULL COOPERATION.

OUR RESEARCH WILL SEE EVEN GREATER PROGRESS...

I LIVE FOR THAT DAY.

THEY WILL PRAISE GRANDPA'S RESEARCH AS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT.

...THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL BE TALKING ABOUT IT.

AND WHEN WE'VE GOTTEN THE FULL PICTURE OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME ...

KATA (CLATTER)

カ

IT'S ALMOST HERE, GRANDPA.

THOUGH I MAY HAVE GOTTEN A LITTLE OVER-EXCITED...

...ABOUT THE PROGRESS OUR RESEARCH WAS MAKING AT THAT TIME.

OH MY, LOOK AT THIS TEMPERATURE.

HAA

HAA

HAA (HUFF)

THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS WORRIED ABOUT, RIKA.

...IT'S NOTHING.

YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE A BIG FUSS ABOUT IT.

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? YOU'RE BURNING UP...

THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU'RE HELPING WITH THAT RESEARCH AT IRIE CLINIC.

THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT...

GIRI GRIT

"SECRET RESEARCH FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE"?

THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY UP TO SOME-THING!

GU (CLENCH)

IT DOES! THEY'RE USING YOU AS A GUINEA PIG, RIKA!

THEY'RE EVEN OPENING HOLES IN YOUR HEAD!

NO—

RIKA, YOU'RE LETTING THEM FOOL YOU.

IF THEY TRY TO TALK TO YOU AGAIN...

RIKA, I FORBID YOU FROM HELPING THOSE PEOPLE WITH THEIR RESEARCH ANYMORE.

...

I'LL TELL THE WORLD ABOUT THEIR RESEARCH! ALL THEIR WORK WILL BE WASTED!

I HAD TAKEN HER TOO LIGHTLY.
RIKA FURUDE'S MOTHER. THE PREVIOUS QUEEN CARRIER.

AND I WOULD COME TO REGRET IT.

-SPECIAL THANKS-
ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR:
RYUKISHI07-SAMA, BT-SAMA, YATAZAKURA-SAMA, TOKIBI-SAMA, TSUBAKI NARUSE-SAMA
MY EDITORS:
KOIZUMI-SAMA, KOUNO-SAMA
MY STAFF:
SHIGETOMO TANAKURA-SAMA, NAYU Y-SAMA, HIKARU NIKAIDO-SAMA, NIWAKO-SAMA, TOMOKA FURUTA-SAMA, YF-SAMA, YO-SHUN-SAMA
AND YOU!

CHAPTER 12: THE QUEEN'S MOTHER

...OUR RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME WAS MAKING RAPID PROGRESS.

USING THE CLINICAL DATA RECEIVED FROM THE QUEEN CARRIER, RIKA FURUDE, AS A FOUNDATION...

...AS YOU CAN SEE, WE AT THE IRIE INSTITUTE...

...HAVE SUCCEEDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEST DRUG H170...

...A DRUG THAT WILL ARTIFICIALLY INDUCE HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

THE INFECTED IS OVERCOME WITH PARANOIA...

...AND AFTER LASHING OUT AT EVERYONE AROUND HIM, HE CLAWS OUT HIS OWN THROAT AND DIES.

A DRUG THAT CAN INFECT A HEALTHY HUMAN BEING WITH HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

OOHH...

IF WE ADAPT THIS TECHNOLOGY FOR THE MILITARY, WE CAN DEVELOP EPOCH-MAKING CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

ZAWA

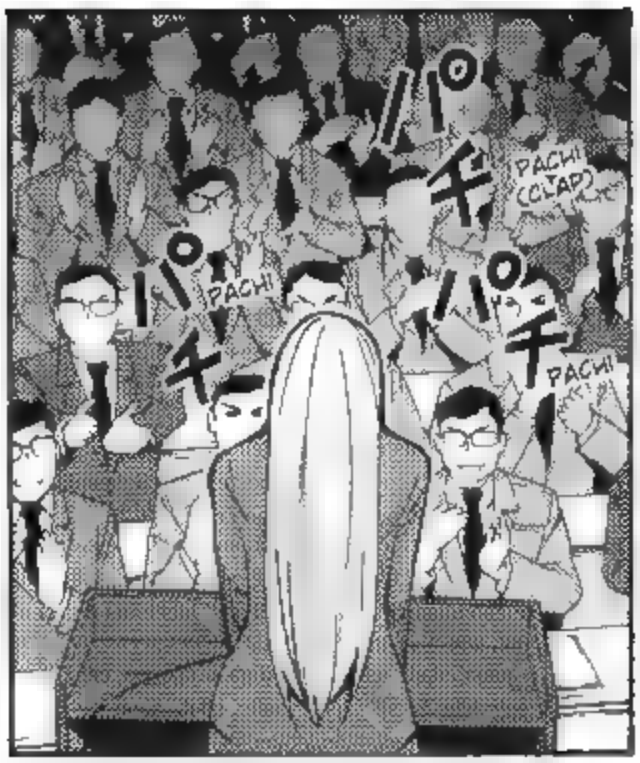
ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA (MURMUR)

MAGNIFICENT.

YES, VERY WELL DONE, MAJOR TAKANO.


パチ
PACHI
(CLAP)
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI

パチ
PACHI
パチ
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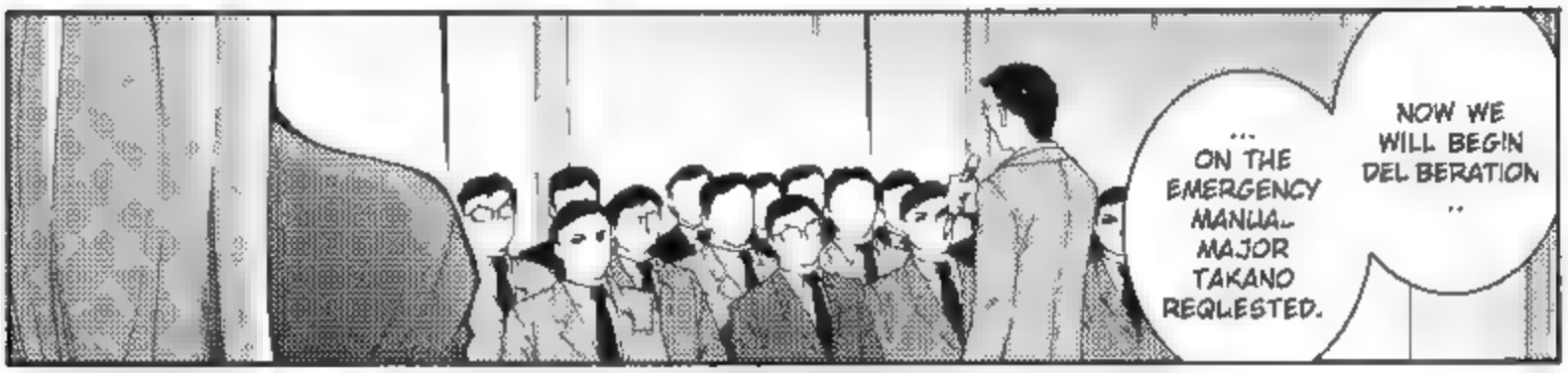
PACHI

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, KOIZUMI-SENSEI.
I OWE ALL OF THIS TO YOU GENTLEMEN AND THE SUPPORT YOU'VE GIVEN TO THIS RESEARCH.


... ON THE EMERGENCY MANUAL. MAJOR TAKANO REQUESTED.
NOW WE WILL BEGIN DEL BERATION ..

WHAT THOSE HIGH OFFICIALS ARE READING SO GREEDILY ...

... MIGHT AS WELL BE GRANDPA'S THESIS.

LOOK HOW FAR I'VE COME...

IMPORTANT MEN ARE NOW FIGHTING EACH OTHER TO READ THE RESEARCH THEY ONCE TRAMPLED.

KOIZUMI-SENSEI IS PLEASED TOO.

パチン

PACHIN (WINK)

LOOK HOW FAR MIYO HAS COME.

GRANDPA.

EARLY SUMMER 1981

JIROU-SAN...

CONGRAT-ULATIONS, TAKANO-SAN.

AND ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR TIRELESS EFFORT.

YOU'RE COMING CLOSER TO A FULL UNDER-STANDING OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME, AND MY BOSSES IN TOKYO THINK VERY HIGHLY OF YOUR RESEARCH.

YOU CAN PROBABLY EXPECT A BIG BUDGET INCREASE IN THE FUTURE.

THANK YOU, JIROU-SAN ...

.....

GYU (CLENCH)

...WILL COME TRUE BEFORE LONG.

IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR WISH TO COMPLETE THE RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME ...

WE'RE NOWHERE NEAR A FULL UNDER-STANDING OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

...NO. NOT YET, JIROU-SAN.

HE THEORIZED THAT HUMAN THOUGHT, RELIGION, AND IDEOLOGY COULD BE CREATED BY A PARASITE IN THE BRAIN.

HE BELIEVED IT WAS A MECHANISM THAT CONTROLLED PEOPLE'S MINDS.

PROFESSOR HIFUMI TAKANO'S ASSESSMENT OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME DIDN'T STOP AT MERELY A DISEASE THAT CAUSES PARANOIA AND VIOLENCE.

I CAN'T BE SATISFIED WITH THIS PALTRY ACHIEVEMENT.

I HAVE TO TAKE THE RE-SEARCH FUR-THER.

IF WE CAN UNDERSTAND HOW HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME WORKS AND PROVE THAT THEORY, IT WILL BE THE GREATEST DISCOVERY IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND.

WE WILL BECOME GODS.

WHEN I DO, PEOPLE WILL PRAISE MY NAME AND GRANDPA'S FAME FOR ETERNITY.

HE LEFT THIS WORLD BEFORE ANYONE ACKNOWLEDGED THE LEGITIMACY OF HIS RESEARCH

I WILL FINISH HIS WORK...

ハァ ハァ

TAKANO-SAN...

BLRORORO!
(VROOOOOM)

WE HAVE A LITTLE TO-DO DOWN AT THE CLINIC.

SORRY TO IN-TERRUPT, YOU TWO.

OKO-NOGI?

WHAT?

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

...ISN'T ALLOWED TO HELP US ANY-MORE!?

RIKA-CHAN...

GATA (CLATTER)

IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR POKING AND PRODDING !!

THE OTHER DAY, RIKA HAD A TERRIBLE FEVER.

AND THAT'S JUST ONE OF MANY TIMES THAT SHE HASN'T BEEN FEELING WELL RECENTLY.

I NEVER WANT TO SEE ANY OF YOU NEAR RIKA AGAIN!

WHAT...?

DOES SHE HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT SHE'S SAYING?

THE FORMER QUEEN CARRIER.

RIKA FURUDE'S MOTHER ...

WHAT IS THIS WOMAN BABBLING ABOUT?

GIRI (GRIT)

...

WE'LL BE LOST AT SEA WITHOUT A COMPASS!

IF WE CAN'T GET DATA FROM HER...

ALL OF THE HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME RESEARCH HINGES ON THE SPECIMEN RIKA FURUDE.

OUR RESEARCH WILL FAIL.

GU (CLENCH)

NEVER, ON ANY ACCOUNT, WILL I LET HER COME HERE AGAIN!!

NO! IT WAS CLEARLY YOUR FAULT!

I BELIEVE HER FEVER WAS CAUSED BY A SEASONAL COLD...

WE ARE MORE AWARE THAN ANYONE OF THE STATE OF RIKA-SAN'S HEALTH

YOU SHOULD BE GLAD TO SACRIFICE A DAUGHTER OR TWO!

THIS RESEARCH IS CRUCIAL!

DAMN HER! WE CAN EXPLAIN UNTIL WE'RE BLUE IN THE FACE, BUT SHE'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR RESEARCH

AND THE FATHER'S NO BETTER.

?

I NEVER TRUSTED YOU, TAKANO-SAN.

AT LEAST IRIE-SENSEI ACTS LIKE A REAL DOCTOR.

HOW DARE YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT?

BUT WHEN YOU LOOK AT RIKA...

...IT'S LIKE YOU'RE LOOKING AT A LAB RAT.

.....

GIRI (GRIT)

I HAVEN'T SAID ANY-THING WRONG.

NOW, THAT'S ENOUGH ...

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THEIR RIDICULOUS, SENTIMENTAL CRAP.

GRR...

I HAVE TO GET THROUGH THIS, WHATEVER IT TAKES.

IF I TRY TO FORCE THINGS, SHE'LL RAISE HELL.

BUT THIS WOMAN IS THE QUEEN CARRIER'S LEGAL GUARDIAN.

SHE MAY EVEN EXPOSE OUR SECRETS.

IT WOULD DO IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO OUR RESEARCH.

BUT I CAN'T LET HER TAKE RIKA FROM ME.

LAB

カタン!

KATAN (CLATTER)

SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF

IT IS

OF THIS VILLAGE...

I BEG YOU.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

I'LL GROVEL IN THE DIRT AS MUCH AS IT TAKES TO KEEP THIS RESEARCH MOVING FORWARD.

IF I CAN GET THIS WOMAN ON MY SIDE...

T... TAKANO-SAN...

PLEASE HELP US, FOR THE FUTURE OF THE VILLAGE.

I UNDER-STAND...

FUU (SIGH)

THEN YOU'LL—

!

I UNDER-STAND THAT TALKING WON'T GET US ANYWHERE!

ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT IS YOUR RESEARCH !!

LET'S TRY AND BE A LITTLE MORE PEACEABLE.

STOP IT.

HOW STUPID CAN ONE WOMAN BE?

GRR...

IRIE-SAN. TAKANO-SAN.

NOW, NOW...

IT'S THAT WISHY-WASHY ATTITUDE OF YOURS THAT HAD EVERYONE CRITICIZING YOU DURING THE DAM WAR!

HOW ABOUT THREE MONTHS?

THAT WOULD BE BAD FOR THE VILLAGE TOO.

I UNDERSTAND THAT IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM FOR YOU TO LOSE RIKA'S HELP SUDDENLY.

AND SO...

EH?

...WE'LL LET HER HELP YOU FOR THREE MORE MONTHS.

BUT AFTER THAT, WE'RE CALLING OFF HER ASSISTANCE.

THAT'S OUR FINAL WORD.

バタン…

BATAN (SHUT)

"AFTER THAT, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT SLOW AND STEADY."
"WE'LL FINISH ALL OUR TESTS ON RIKA-SAN WITHIN THREE MONTHS.
"WE CAN'T IGNORE HER PARENTS' WISHES.
YOU KNOW NOTHING !!
NOTH-ING!

HAA

HAA

HE'S COMPLETELY SATISFIED JUST HAVING HOPE FOR FINDING A CURE!

IRIE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND! THIS RESEARCH SUPERSEDES EVERYTHING ELSE!

HAA (HUFF)

GIRI (GRIT)

GRR...

NO, BASED ON HOW WORKED UP AND EMOTIONAL SHE WAS, THAT WOULD ONLY BACKFIRE.

PAY THEM OFF?

WHAT DO I DO? HOW CAN I GET OUT OF THIS SITUATION?

IF I CAN'T SOLVE A MINOR PROBLEM LIKE THIS ON MY OWN, HE'LL GIVE UP ON ME COMPLETELY.

GO TO KOIZUMI-SENSEI...? I CAN'T DO THAT EITHER.

...THEN THOSE OPPOSED TO THE PROJECT COULD ORDER A STOP TO THE RESEARCH.

I CAN'T GO CRYING TO THE TOP BRASS IN TOKYO EITHER. IF THEY FIND OUT WE'RE HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE LOCALS...

IT'S SO STUPID! ALL BECAUSE OF THIS ONE LITTLE SNAG...OUR DREAM...

IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING, THE RESEARCH WILL FAIL.

WHAT DO I DO...?

WHAT DO I DO?

THAT IDIOTIC FEMALE WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE SUPREMACY OF OUR RESEARCH.

ALL BECAUSE OF THAT WOMAN.

DAMN YOU, DAMN YOU, DAMN YOU...

GUSHA CRUFFLE.

YOU SURVIVED YOUR TIME IN THAT HELLISH ORPHANAGE.

CALM DOWN. COOL YOUR HEAD, MIYO TAKANO.

GU (CLENCH)

HAA

HAA (HUFF)

ゲイ

GUI (TUG)

THERE HAS TO BE A WAY.

OKONOGI?

Major Takano. Okonogi here.

RRRR...

ズ!!

SO YOU'RE HAVIN' SOME TROUBLE, EH?

ZUI (LOOM)

ガチャ!!

GACHA (KACHAK)

OKONOGI ...

HEH HEH HEH.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE DOING HERE NOW...?

ガチャ!!

GACHA (CLICK)

THE IRIE INSTI-TUTE'S SECRET FORCE.

THE LEADER OF THE WILD DOGS...

THE ORDER...?

I WAS JUST WONDERIN' WHY YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN THE ORDER YET.

DON (THUMP)

...AND IT COULD BE DONE TONIGHT.

YEAH. YOU JUST GIVE THE WORD ...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

PREPARE? PREPARE FOR WHAT?

HEH HEH ...

SO THE SOONER WE GET STARTED, THE BETTER.

BUT WE DO GOTTA WORRY ABOUT PRYIN' EYES, SO I'D LIKE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO PREPARE.

WE GOTTA BE READY TO TAKE DRASTIC MEA-SURES

...IF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE IRIE INSTITUTE IS AT RISK, ISN'T THAT WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR?

は…？
HA (GASP)

IT CAN'T BE. IS HE SUGGESTING ...?

ゴクリ…

GOKURI (GULP)

YOU CAN DO THAT? WITHOUT ANYONE FINDING OUT?

THAT'S WHAT THE WILD DOGS DO.

HEH HEH.

THE WILD DOGS ARE AN INTELLIGENCE TEAM RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE IRIE INSTITUTE.

HE'S RIGHT.

THEY EVEN KIDNAPPED THE MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION'S GRANDSON, REMEMBER?

?

IF ANYONE CAN DO IT, THEY CAN.

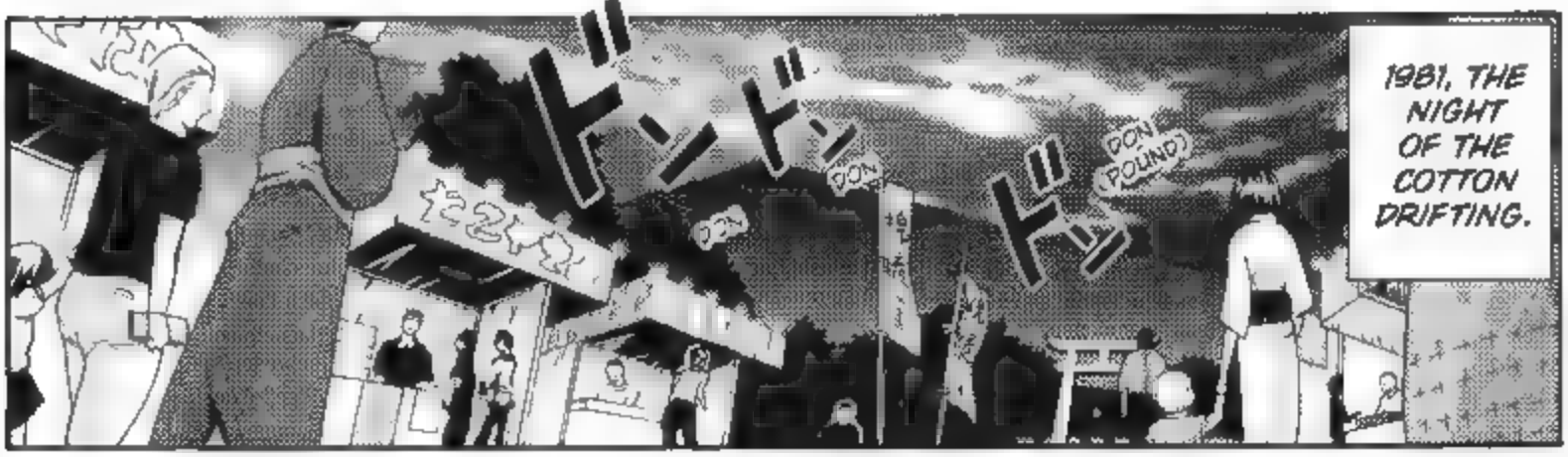
I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT.

I SEE.

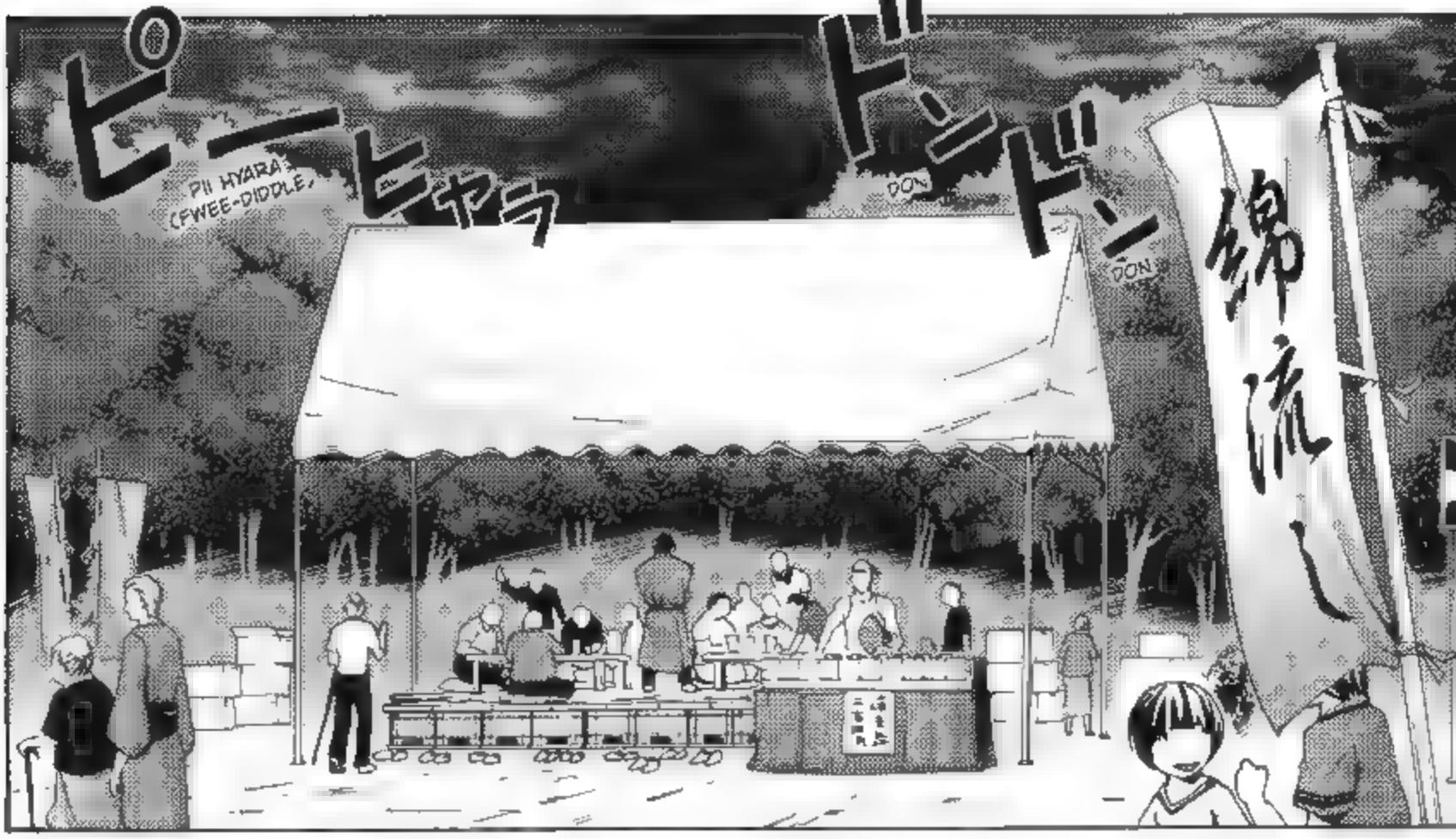
IT'S ALMOST THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

THEN THIS IS PERFECT.

SIGNS: TAKOYAKI, COTTON DRIFTING



SIGNS: COTTON DRIFTING, YAKITORI, TWO FOR ¥100



HA-HA-HA-HA

.....

HEY... YOU COULD AT LEAST CHEER UP DURING THE FESTIVAL.

RIKA'S ALMOST DONE WORKING FOR THE CLINIC.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND ME, DEAR?

...DEAR?

WHAT IF YOUR WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE GETS RIKA IN TROUBLE?

I WISH YOU WOULD KICK THOSE PEOPLE OUT OF THE VILLAGE.

UNGH...

UNGH

GEH

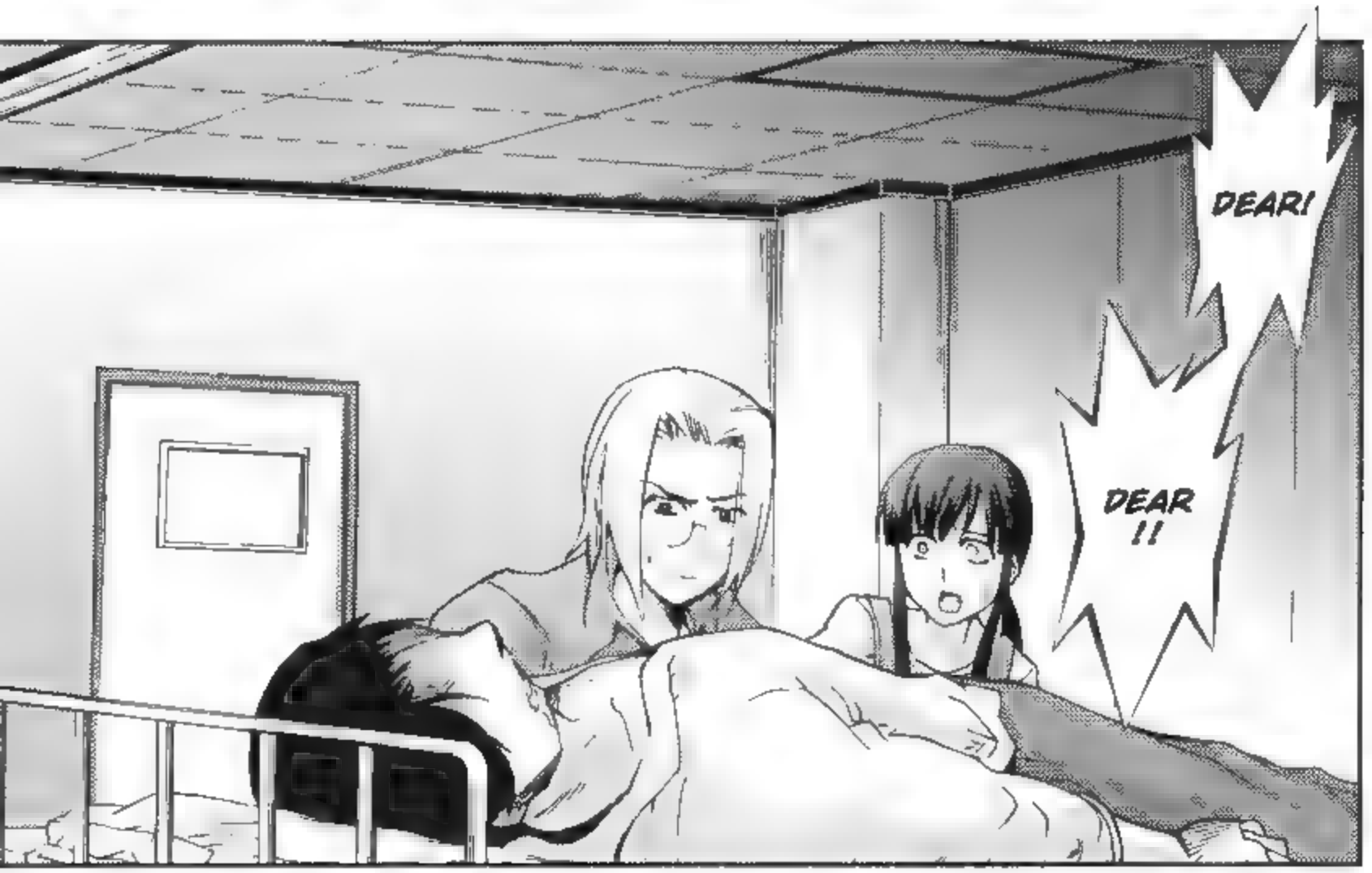
!?

OH NO! CALL IRIE-SENSEI!!

DEAR! WHAT'S WRONG !?

DEAR!

GASHAAAN (CRASH)


DEAR!
DEAR!!

ZU
(56)

...YOU CAN SAVE MY HUSBAND, CAN'T YOU?
S-SENSEI, YOU...

NO!

UNFORTU-NATELY...

AAAA

ZAAAA (ZSHHH)

SUCH A TERRIBLE THING TO HAPPEN ON THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING...

HOW WILL I EVER EXPLAIN THIS TO RIKA?

KATSUN

KATSUN

KATSUN

KATSUN

KATSUN (CLACK)

...ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING, ONE PERSON DIES, AND ONE PERSON DISAPPEARS.

OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

WHAT ...?

WH...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...?

HA (GASP)

...THEN OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE WILL HAVE STRUCK AGAIN.

IF ANOTHER PERSON DISAP-PEARS ...

IT HAPPENED LAST YEAR, AND NOW THIS YEAR, ONE PERSON DIED.

KATSUN (CLACK)

YOU...?

IT CAN'T BE...

I WILL TAKE ONE STEP CLOSER TO GODHOOD.

I WILL EXECUTE THE CURSE.

I WON'T LET A STUPID WOMAN LIKE YOU STAND IN MY WAY.

DO (WHAM)

.....!!

KA
(FLASH)

NN...

NNNGH
...

WHAT'S ...

... HAPPENING ...?

KO

KO (CLACK)

KC

HA (GASP)

OH. YOU'RE AWAKE.

WHAT?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?

HEE-HEE-HEE. THE WILD DOGS [illegible] SKILLS.

ワス...

TAKANO ...!!

HIS WIFE DROWNS HERSELF.

HEART-BROKEN

THE HEAD OF THE FURUDE FAMILY DIES OF HEART FAILURE.

EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED.

THAT WILL BE THE GENERAL PREMISE OF THE THIRD YEAR'S CURSE.

WHEN YOU TWO ARE GONE...

...RIKA FURUDE WILL BE OURS.

WHY NOT WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF INSTEAD?

DON'T WORRY. SHE'S VERY IMPORTANT TO US.

WE WON'T DO ANYTHING TO HURT HER.

RIKA...

R...

NO ONE OUTSIDE THIS FACILITY KNOWS YOU'RE HERE.

NOT EVEN LITTLE ZAEL.

EE...

HEE HEE HEE ...

RELAX. I WON'T KILL YOU.

BE-CAUSE YOU...

...WERE THE QUEEN CARRIER BEFORE RIKA.

YOU ARE AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE SPECIMEN.

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

クス...

I'M GOING TO LET YOU LIVE WHILE I DISSECT YOU.

ガタン

KATAN (CLATTER)

GH...!!

PLEASE...

S... STOP...

HELP ME...

THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU STOOD IN THE WAY OF ME AND GRANDPA'S RESEARCH.

THIS IS YOUR FAULT, YOU KNOW.

I'M JUST GOING TO OPEN UP YOUR SKULL AND SCRAMBLE YOUR BRAINS UP A BIT, THAT'S ALL.

HEE... THERE'S NO REASON TO BE SO FRIGHT-ENED.

AND THAT WOULD CONFUSE THE NUMBERS IN OUR PRECIOUS DATA.

...THEN THAT COULD HAVE A SUBTLE EFFECT ON YOUR BRAIN AND BLOOD VESSEL READINGS.

I'VE ALWAYS HATED THAT.

IF I WERE TO SEDATE YOU DURING THE OPERATION ...

BUT...

TSUPU (CUT)

.....!

AND SO I'M GOING TO PERFORM YOUR OPERATION WITHOUT ANAESTHESIA.

THIS IS GOING TO HURT JUST A LITTLE BIT.

SHIN

(SHRESS)

NO...

STOP...

BUT JUST BEAR WITH IT, OKAY?

KACHA (CLINK)
KACHA
KACHA

I CAUSED THE THIRD CURSE.

HA-HA. THIS IS HOW MUCH POWER I WIELD.

THE POWER TO LET PEOPLE LIVE AND DIE AS I SEE FIT

I'M UNSTOPPABLE!!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

HA HA HA

...AND HIS WIFE GOING MISSING.

BUT I HAD NO IDEA IT WOULD BE THE PRIEST AT FURUDE SHRINE DYING OF HEART FAILURE...

I THOUGHT THAT SOMETHING MIGHT GO DOWN TONIGHT.

HOW COULD I LET THIS HAPPEN ?

DID YOU FIND SOME-THING?

OO-ISHI-SAN!

A NOTE?

WE HAVE A REPORT. MRS. FURUDE'S SHOES WERE FOUND AT THE EDGE OF ONGAFUCHI SWAMP ALONG WITH A NOTE.

"I OFFER MYSELF TO ONIGAFUCHI SWAMP TO APPEASE THE GOD..."

"MY HUSBAND DIED BECAUSE HE INCURRED OYASHIRO-SAMA'S WRATH.

YES.

...IS WHAT IT SAID.

THEN SHE LEFT THE NOTE AND THREW HERSELF INTO THE SWAMP...

AFTER HER HUSBAND DIED AT IRIE CLINIC, MRS. FURUDE— AT HER WITS' END— RAN FROM THE FACILITY.

APPARENTLY IT HAPPENED WHILE THE NURSE WAS MOMENTARILY DISTRACTED.

AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE CASE.

SUICIDE ...?

NN-FU-FU.

IT'S JUST TERRIBLE. AND ON THE COTTON DRIFTING OF ALL NIGHTS...

パタン (SHUT)

?

IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED ...

... PRECISELY BECAUSE IT'S THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

IF WE DON'T FIND THE WIFE'S BODY, SHE'LL BE TREATED AS A MISSING PERSON.

ZARI (CRUNCH)

ONCE AGAIN, SOMEONE DIES ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

AND THAT WILL MEAN THAT OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE HAS STRUCK THREE YEARS IN A ROW.

THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE KILLING PEOPLE AND MAKING IT LOOK LIKE OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

COINCIDENCE? NO, IT COULDN'T BE.

AND I WILL CATCH THEM.

THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING, 1982.

SIGN: OKONOMIYAKI

OHHHH...

SIGNS: ICE TAKOYAKI

YEAH. IT'S REALLY COME TO LIFE IN RECENT YEARS.

IT'S SUCH A BIG FESTIVAL NOW!

THIS IS AMAZING, MII-CHAN!

SIGNS: CHOCOLATE BANANAS, GOLDFISH SCOOP

SIGN: MITARASHI

HEE-HEE. THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS I'M EXCITED ABOUT.

OHO! I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT!

SO, YOU WANNA GO LOOK AROUND THE BOOTHS UNTIL RIKA-CHAN AND SATOKO GET HERE?

DON DON DON BOOM

THE FESTIVAL IS WHAT I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MOST ABOUT COMING BACK TO HINAMIZAWA.

BUT WHAT I REALLY WANT TO DO IS THE ACTUAL COTTON DRIFTING.

WOW, THAT'S SO AUSTERE OF YOU, RENA.

IT'S ONLY YOUR FIRST FESTIVAL SINCE MOVING BACK.

IN THE COTTON DRIFTING, YOU USE THE COTTON TO ABSORB ALL THE SINS AND UNCLEANLINESS FROM YOUR BODY AND WASH IT AWAY, RIGHT?

GYU (SQUEEZE)

I...

...RENA?

I DIDN'T THINK I'D EVER BE ABLE TO ERASE THE STAINS FROM MY BODY.

I'M SO FILTHY, I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO EVER BE HAPPY.

OR SO I THOUGHT.

I COULDN'T FORGIVE MY MOTHER FOR ABANDONING MY FATHER, AND I DID A LOT OF TERRIBLE THINGS.

IT IS A VILLAGE THAT FORGIVES SINS.

HINAMIZAWA WIPES AWAY THE STAINS...

OYASHIRO-SAMA TAKES THAT FILTH AND PURIFIES IT.

BUT OYASHIRO-SAMA WILL FORGIVE ME.

OYASHIRO-SAMA DOESN'T CUT OFF THOSE WHO HAVE BECOME DIRTY.

RENA...

I'M SO GLAD I CAME BACK.

I BELIEVED THAT NOW THAT I WAS BACK IN HINAMIZAWA I COULD FIND HAPPINESS.

BUT I FAILED MY FRIEND. I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED...

...THAT TO SAVE SOMEONE DEAR TO HIM...

...HE WAS ABOUT TO TAKE ON A BURDEN OF SIN.

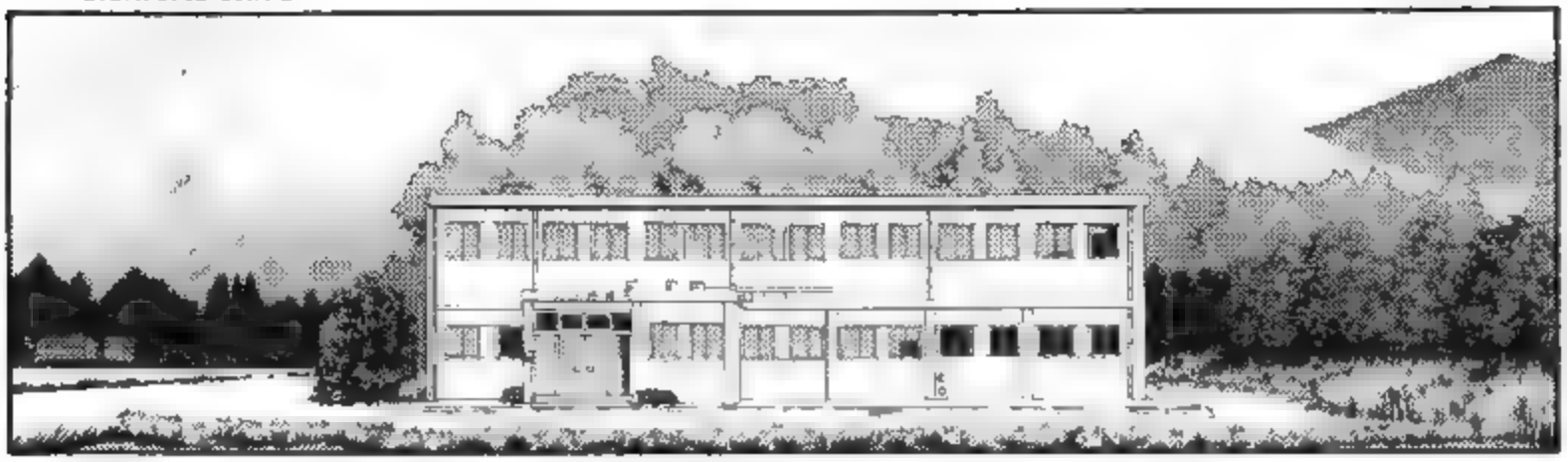
...WAS DISCOVERED BEATEN TO DEATH.

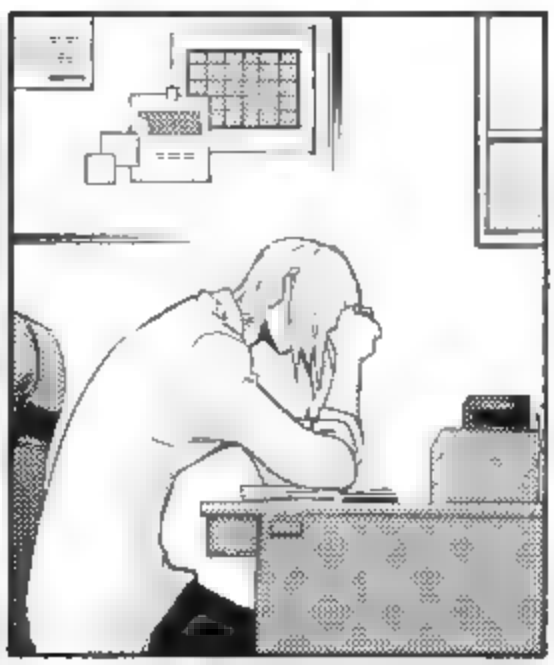
THAT NIGHT ...

... SATOSHI-KUN'S AUNT...

CHAPTER 13: THE MURDER OF THE HOJOS' AUNT

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC





AFTER SATOSHI-KUN LOST HIS PARENTS IN THE "ACCIDENT" ...

...HE WAS ADOPTED INTO HIS AUNT'S FAMILY.

APPARENTLY BOTH HE AND SATOKO-CHAN SUFFERED REGULAR ABUSE.

BEFORE LONG, SATOSHI-KUN QUIT MY JUNIOR BASEBALL TEAM.

HE TOOK HIS BAT HOME WITH HIM.

THEN, TO SAVE SATOKO-CHAN FROM THE ABUSE...

...HE WENT TO HIS AUNT AND...

WE SHOULD HAVE INTERVENED! WE SHOULD HAVE USED OUR INFLUENCE TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE THIS HAPPENED!

I SWORE I WOULD PROTECT THEM AS THE ONLY ADULT IN THIS VILLAGE WHO WAS ON THEIR SIDE.

ALL I COULD DO WAS WATCH AS HE RAN DOWN THE PATH TO MURDER.

DAN (BAM)

SATOKO-CHAN IS ONE OF OUR TEST SUBJECTS!

WE NEEDED TO ENSURE HER SAFETY!

RRRRR

BUT—

FUU (SIGH)

WE COULDN'T RISK EXPOSING THE IRIE INSTITUTE OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

THIS IS RIDICULOUS. THE WILD DOGS AREN'T CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE.

!!

From Satoshi Hojo-san.

You have a call on external line one.

IRIE SPEAK-ING.

BAN BAM

SATOSHI-KUN!!

COACH...

ゴロロロ...

BURRORR
RRRRR

THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

ゴロロロ...

I'M SORRY. I JUST COULDN'T CARRY IT ON MY BIKE.

I DIDN'T EXPECT THE BEAR TO BE SO BIG

AUNT TAMAE HAS BEEN BULLYING SATOKO ALL THE TIME LATELY..

SHE'S ALWAYS CRYING... SHE NEVER SMILES ANYMORE...

TODAY IS SATOKO'S BIRTHDAY.

SO I WORKED... TO EARN THE MONEY...

SHE'S WANTED THIS BEAR FOR A LONG TIME.

SATOSHI-KUN...

...THIS WILL MAKE HER FEEL BETTER?

DO YOU THINK ...

...SATOSHI-KUN MAY HAVE KILLED A WOMAN WITH HIS OWN HANDS.

HE...

GYU (CLENCH)

BUT CAN ANYONE BLAME HIM FOR IT?

THEN HIS PARENTS DIED, AND NEXT HE WAS BOMBARDED WITH ABUSE FROM HIS AUNT.

AND BECAUSE HIS PARENTS GOT ON THE VILLAGE'S BAD SIDE, THE VILLAGERS WERE CRUEL TO HIM AND HIS SISTER.

WITH HIS MOTHER CONSTANTLY REMARRYING, THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANY HARMONY IN HIS HOME.

BACKED AGAINST A WALL...

IF THOSE CIRCUM-STANCES HAD GONE ON ANY LONGER, [redacted] HAVE FALLEN APART.

...HE FOUGHT DESPERATELY

AND PROTECTED HIS SISTER.

I'M SURE SATOKO-CHAN WILL LOVE IT.

DON'T WORRY.

...

I WANT THEM TO ENJOY THEIR FUTURE LIFE TOGETHER.

SO I'LL HELP.

BuRORORORO (VROOOOM)

SO FROM NOW ON, YOU CAN JUST TAKE IT EASY.

RIGHT. NO ONE WILL BULLY SATOKO-CHAN ANY-MORE.

THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO BULLY SATOKO ANYMORE, RIGHT?

OUR AUNT... IS GONE NOW.

OUR UNCLE WENT TO STAY WITH HIS MISTRESS IN OKINOMIYA. HE'S NOT COMING BACK.

SHE'S DEAD AND GONE.

MY AUNT IS GONE, RIGHT?

THEN...

THEN...

.....?

YOUR AUNT IS NEVER COMING BACK.

THAT'S RIGHT. I WAS THERE AT THE AUTOPSY.

WHY IS SHE STANDING RIGHT THERE?

WHAT!?

AND THERE...
AND THERE.
THERE.

WH-WHERE? I DON'T SEE ANYONE THAT LOOKS LIKE HER.
AND SHE COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE ALIVE.
B-BUT...

THEY ALL LOOK JUST LIKE HER...!

...IT'S OKAY, SATOSHI-KUN.
I DON'T SEE YOUR AUNT ANY-WHERE.
WHY IS AUNT TAMAE STILL ALIVE?

...SO WHY?
...WHY ...!!?
I MADE SURE SHE COULDN'T MOVE!
I HIT HER IN THE HEAD AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN!
... KILLED HER!
SHE CAN'T BE ALIVE!

SATOSHI-KUN...

NO!!!

THIS IS...

HAA (HUFF)

HAA

HE SEES HER.

A HALLUCINATION LIKE THAT...

THE WOMAN HE THOUGHT HE KILLED KEEPS APPEARING RIGHT BEFORE HIS EYES...

...A TYPICAL CASE...

...OF THE FINAL STAGES OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME!!

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING

THE SYMPTOMS WERE TRIGGERED BY SATOSHI-KUN'S DAILY STRESS AND BY THE INCIDENT.

DAMMIT! WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE SOONER!?

PLEASE, TRY TO STAY CALM!

THERE IS NO CURSE. YOU'LL BE OKAY.

...DO YOU THINK THIS IS OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE?

COACH ...

...WON'T FORGIVE ME...

THAT MUST BE WHY OYASHIRO-SAMA...

...AND RUNNING OFF SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY.

...I THOUGHT ABOUT TAKING THE MONEY ...

RIGHT BEFORE I BOUGHT THE BEAR...

SATOKO... I'M SORRY.

...I'M SO SORRY ...

I'M SORRY, SATOKO. I'M SORRY...

Gu (PRESS)

Gu

SATOSHI-KUN, DON'T SCRATCH YOUR NECK!

WE'RE ALMOST AT THE CLINIC. CLOSE YOUR EYES AND GET SOME REST!

Pi (RIP)

Gu (PRESS)

IT ITCHES ...

IT ITCHES ...

IT ITCHES ...

SKKRCH

SKKRCH

SKKRCH

SKKRCH

SKKRCH

SKKRCH

NO, SATOSHI-KUN!!

ARE THERE MAGGOTS IN MY BLOOD?

KI-KIII (SCREEE)

HANG IN THERE, SATOSHI-KUN!

IT ITCHES

IT ITCHES

GARA (RATTLE) GARA

ガラ ガラ

GARA

NN...

NNGH ...

GIVE ME THE TRANQUIL-IZER!

GU (JAB)

C...

COACH ...!

SATO-SHI-KUN!!

PLEASE TAKE CARE...OF SATOKO...

PLEASE...

GAKU (SLUMP)...

GARA

GARA

GARA

AFTER I FINALLY MANAGED TO PROTECT SATOKO-CHAN...

...WHY IS THIS HAPPENING AGAIN?

WHY ...?

ZA (ZSH)

MY, MY.

IT SEEMS WE GET A LIVE SPECIMEN EVERY YEAR AT COTTON DRIFTING.

TAKANO-SAN...

THE FINAL STAGES. HE'LL BE A GOOD SAMPLE.

クス...

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

...SATOSHI-KUN IS GOING TO BE A TEST SUBJECT FOR THE CURE.

I'M NOT GOING TO DISSECT HIM.

PLEASE HAVE THEM COVER UP THE AUNT'S MURDER.

I WANT YOU TO MOBILIZE THE WILD DOGS.

KUSU CHUCKLE, KUSU
クスクス KUSU
クス..

WE CAN'T DO OUR EXPERIMENTS IN PEACE WITH INVESTIGATIONS GOING ON, AFTER ALL.

HEH-HEH... OKAY.

I WON'T LET HER DISSECT HIM.

I WILL PROTECT SATOSHI-KUN.

THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN SO MANY TRAGEDIES EVERY TIME THE COTTON DRIFTING HAS COME AROUND.

AND WE HAVE TO MAKE EVEN MORE PROGRESS RESEARCHING A CURE AND PREVENTION FOR HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

...
SO THAT NO ONE HAS TO SUFFER AT NEXT YEAR'S COTTON DRIFTING.

ZA (ZSH)

WE'LL ADVANCE THE RESEARCH ...

NEXT YEAR'S COTTON DRIFTING...

SATOSHI HOJO HAS GONE MISSING.

OKINOMIYA PRECINCT, THE NEXT DAY.

THE FOURTH IN AN ANNUAL SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS.

THE BOY SUSPECTED IN THE MURDER OF TAMAE HOJO.

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT WE WOULD FINALLY CATCH THE KILLER...

THERE'S SOMEONE BEHIND HIM PULLING THE STRINGS, CAUSING ALL OF THESE DEATHS.

SATOSHI HOJO WAS ONLY THE EXECUTIONER.

DA (DASH)

YES, SIR!

HE WILL LEAD US TO THE MASTER-MIND BEHIND ALL OF THIS.

WE MUST FIND HIM AT ALL COSTS.

HE'S OUR ONLY CLUE.

WE CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY.

I WON'T FAIL THIS TIME.

AND I WILL AVENGE OYASSAN.

ゴロロロ

BUT THE ENEMY IS ONE STEP AHEAD OF US.

YES, SIR..

YOU FOUND THE KILLER !?

...CONFESSED TO COMMITTING A MURDER ON THE DAY OF THE FESTIVAL.

A DRUG ADDICT WHO WAS IN POLICE CUSTODY FOR A DIFFERENT CRIME...

RIGHT AFTER THAT...

THAT'S RIDICULOUS ...

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...

...HE KILLED HIMSELF INSIDE THE DETENTION CENTER.

...WERE NEVER GIVEN ANY CONSIDER-ATION.

THE CONNECTION TO THE OTHER DEATHS IN THE SERIES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A MASTERMIND...

BOOK: INVESTIGATION REPORT

THE INVESTI-GATION ENDED.

BUT SINCE A CULPRIT WAS FOUND, THE CASE WAS CLOSED.

...THEY MADE HIM DISAPPEAR AND SET UP A SUBSTITUTE KILLER.

THEY FORCED SATOSHI MOJO TO COMMIT THE CRIME, AND WHEN THEY SAW THAT THE INVESTIGATION WAS GETTING CLOSE TO HIM...

IT'S ALL GOING ACCORDING TO THE ENEMY'S PLAN.

GIRI (GRIT)

ONCE AGAIN, I FAILED TO CATCH THE REAL KILLER.

THE MURDERER CONFESSED, THEN KILLED HIMSELF.

SIGN: FORENSICS

HA-HA. THEY'VE GOT US, JII-SAMA.

I GUESS THAT MEANS CASE CLOSED?

I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D MAKE THEIR MOVE THIS QUICKLY.

THE SONOZAKIS.

I MIGHT BELIEVE THAT THEY COULD FORCE SOMEONE ELSE TO CONFESS TO THE CRIME...

...BUT THEN THEY MADE SURE TO ERASE HIM TOO?

DOES ANYONE EVEN EXIST WITH THAT KIND OF POWER?

THE ONLY ENTITY WITH THAT KIND OF POWER WOULD BE THE MASTERMINDS BEHIND THESE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS.

...THEY'RE KILLING THE VILLAGE'S ENEMIES AND MAKING IT LOOK LIKE OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

TO STRENGTHEN THE UNITY OF THE VILLAGE...

ゴクリ..
GOKURI. (GULP)

FOUR YEARS IN A ROW...

グ..
GU (PRESS)

...WE CAN'T GET ANY PROOF.

WE'VE FIGURED IT ALL OUT, AND YET...

AND YET...

JII-SAMA, FOR THREE YEARS, I'VE FAILED TO AVENGE OYASSAN.

I LOVED HIM LIKE A FATHER, BUT I CAN'T AVENGE HIS DEATH.

OYASSAN'S GONNA PUNCH ME IN THE TEETH.

KURA-DO ...

.....

OYASSAN...

...AND THE FIRST VICTIM OF THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS.

OYASSAN WAS THE [illegible] IN THE [illegible] PROJECT...

TO ME, HE WAS AN OLD, OLD FRIEND... NO, HE WAS MORE THAN THAT.

...I LOST MY FATHER IN AN AIR RAID ON NAGOYA.

DURING THE WAR...

BUT I WAS NEVER REALLY BROKEN UP ABOUT IT.

WHEN I LOST HIM... SURE, I WAS SAD.

ONE TIME, HE EVEN CHEWED ME OUT FOR NOT GETTING DRAFTED.

WHEN HE WAS ALIVE, I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST AN ANNOYING OLD MAN.

BUT

THAT WAS WHEN I REALIZED FOR THE FIRST TIME

...I SAW ENOUGH TOUCHING FAMILY REUNIONS AT THE TRAIN STATION TO MAKE ME SICK

AFTER THE WAR ENDED AND PEOPLE CAME BACK FROM THE FRONT...

I WAS SAD.

OH.

THAT'S WHEN IT HAPPENED.

WHEN I MET OYASSAN.

BUT I REMEMBER FEELING VERY SAD.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING AROUND ACTING LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HAD

THE WHOLE COUNTRY WAS OVER-FLOWING WITH SADNESS AND PAIN.

I WAS CHASING AFTER A WOMAN WHO RAN FROM A GOVERNMENT CHECKPOINT.

I WAS STILL A UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICER.

SHE HAD A SACK OF BLACK MARKET RICE.

IT WAS MY JOB TO CONFISCATE THAT MEASLY LITTLE BAG OF RICE.

BUT EVEN IF IT WAS TO SURVIVE, THE LAW IS THE LAW.

IN THE CITIES, THEY HAD TO BUY RICE ILLEGALLY FROM FARMING FAMILIES.

AT THE TIME, NO ONE COULD SURVIVE ON JUST THEIR RATIONS.

WAAAHH

STOP!

I HATED THAT JOB.

I CAN LET YOU GO.

THEN I CAN STOP FOLLOWING YOU.

JUST THROW DOWN THE RICE, PLEASE!

I DON'T WANT TO ARREST YOU!

GWAH !!

DOSA (THUD)

GO (WHAM)

ZA (ZSH)

WHA ...?

LET HER GO.

I WAS STUNNED.

HE WAS A DEAD RINGER FOR MY OLD MAN.

THAT'S HOW I MET OYASSAN.

CHILDREN ARE SUPPOSED TO SIT AND LISTEN.

MY OLD MAN WAS GIVING ME A LECTURE.

ALL I COULD DO WAS SIT THERE AND LISTEN.

HE GAVE ME A LECTURE RIGHT THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET.

IT WAS LIKE MY DAD HAD REALLY COME BACK.

AS I LISTENED TO HIM PREACH, ON THE INSIDE, I WAS JUMPING FOR JOY.

EVEN AT THAT AGE, I STILL NEEDED MY OLD MAN.

THAT'S WHY I CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY... THAT I HAD TWO DADS.

HE TAUGHT ME WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A REAL MAN.

OYASSAN AND I STARTED SPENDING TIME TOGETHER AFTER THAT.

WITHOUT A DOUBT, OYASSAN WAS MY DAD, MY OLDER BROTHER...

...AND MY BEST FRIEND.

BUT THREE YEARS AGO...

...HE...

...WAS KILLED AS THE FIRST IN THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS.

AND HIS RIGHT ARM WAS NEVER FOUND.

HE WAS CUT INTO PIECES— HEAD, TORSO, ARMS, AND LEGS...

THE DAY WE MET, THE FIST ON THAT RIGHT ARM TAUGHT ME THE RIGHT WAY TO GO.

THAT RIGHT ARM TAUGHT ME THE DUTIES OF A MAN, TAUGHT ME HOW TO DRINK, HOW TO GAMBLE ...

...STILL HASN'T BEEN FOUND.

AND THAT RIGHT ARM OF OYASSAN'S ...

JII-SAMA.

KURA-UDO ...

.....

AND IN A LITTLE OVER A YEAR, I'M GOING TO RETIRE.

AT THIS RATE, I'LL NEVER AVENGE OYASSAN.

IT'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER YEAR NOW.

ダン

DAN (BAN)

THAT'S THE ONLY CHANCE I HAVE LEFT.

NEXT YEAR. I KNOW THERE'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER MURDER AT NEXT YEAR'S COTTON DRIFTING.

OOISHI-SAN...

I'LL PULL THE REAL CRIMINAL OUT OF HIDING...

...AND I'LL FIND OYASSAN'S RIGHT ARM.

IT'S MY LAST CHANCE.

NEXT TIME, I HAVE TO WATCH THE VILLAGE LIKE A HAWK, BEFORE THE MURDER TAKES PLACE.

BUT IF I WAIT UNTIL THE MURDER'S ALREADY HAPPENED, IT WILL BE TOO LATE

NEXT YEAR—ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING, JUNE 1983...

NEXT YEAR'S COTTON DRIFTING...

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

KANA

コン

KON (KICK)

I COULDN'T WAIT FOR SUMMER VACATION.

AND NOW IT'S ALREADY OVER.

IN THE END, I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING...

...AND THEN SATOSHI DISAP-PEARED. IN THE END, I COULDN'T DO ANY-THING.

BUT I JUST KEPT LETTING HIM SUFFER.

MII...

I KNEW SATOSHI WAS HAVING A HARD TIME, WITH HIS FAMILY PROBLEMS AND BEING AN OUTCAST AND EVERYTHING.

...I ALWAYS WISHED I COULD DO SOMETHING FOR HIM.

EVEN NOW THAT SATOSHI'S GONE...

...I STILL CAN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION...

..."WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE TO SAVE HIM?"

YOU EVEN MADE THAT CLUB TO HELP SATOSHI AND SATOKO CHEER UP.

YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD, MII, SIR.

...BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH.

THANKS, RIKA-CHAN.

KANA (BIRD)

KANA

KANA

AND I STILL COULDN'T CHANGE THE AIR IN THE VILLAGE. THEY STILL PERSECUTED SATOKO AND SATOSHI.

PLUS, I'M THE NEXT HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY

IF I COULDN'T SAVE ONE OF MY CLUB MEMBERS, THEN I'M A FAILURE AS A PRESIDENT

I CAN'T CHANGE THE AIR IN THIS VILLAGE.

BECAUSE I'M TIED DOWN BY ITS CHAINS.

I LEARNED TO USE WEAPONS AND TO FIGHT DURING THE DAM WAR.

BUT THAT DIDN'T HELP ME SAVE SATOSHI OR SATOKO.

GU! (CLENCH...)

HE'LL BE HERE SOON.

SOON...

?

ガアアア...

ZAAAA
.ZSHHH

...NOT BOUND BY THE VILLAGE CHAINS.

SOME-ONE FROM OUT-SIDE...

...

HUH?

HE'LL COME, I KNOW IT.

AND THEN...

...WE'LL BAND TOGETHER ...

...AND CRUSH THE EVILS LURKING IN THE VILLAGE.

...NEXT YEAR'S COTTON DRIFTING WILL BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO WIN BACK THAT FUTURE.
THAT WILL BE THE FIRST KEY TO UNLOCKING THE THREE LOCKS KEEPING US FROM OUR FUTURE.

MY JOURNEY OF HUNDREDS OF YEARS WILL COME TO AN END.
...YES. THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME.

...WHAT IS THAT? SOME BOOK YOU READ?

SOMETIMES YOU SAY SOME REALLY GROWN-UP THINGS, RIKA-CHAN.

BUT EVEN IF SOMEBODY DOES MOVE INTO THE VILLAGE...

...DON'T YOU THINK IT'S UNFAIR TO EXPECT SO MUCH FROM HIM?

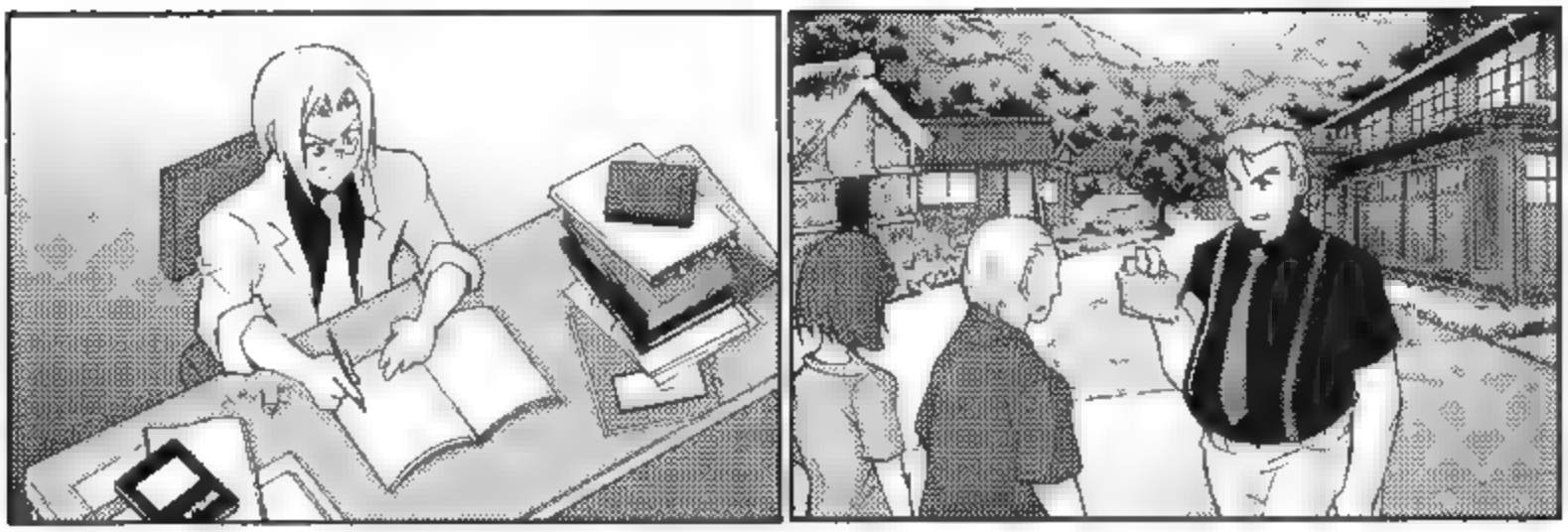
HEH HEH HEH!

...BUT YOU'RE RIGHT.

ZAAAA (ZSHHH)

I HOPE THAT NEXT YEAR...

...WE CAN ALL HAVE A HAPPY COTTON DRIFTING.



AT NEXT YEAR'S COTTON DRIFTING...
YES. NEXT YEAR.

Part IV

THE HIGURASHI CAFE

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Visual Novel ©07th

ABOUT THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC": THE CORRECT SOLUTION

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI 07

THE STORY LEADING UP TO 1983 FINALLY MADE IT TO THE FOURTH YEAR'S CURSE. TRAGEDIES AND ATROCITIES AREN'T SOMETHING THAT SUDDENLY HAPPEN FOR NO REASON; THEY COME ABOUT AFTER MANY NEGATIVE THINGS BUILD UP TO THEM. AFTER SEEING EVERYTHING BUILD UP LIKE THIS, I EXPECT YOU HAVE A DIFFERENT IMPRESSION THAN YOU DID READING THE "ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC" WHEN YOU FIRST ENCOUNTERED THE TRAGEDIES OF THIS STORY.

ALSO, THIS ARC CLOSES IN ON THE STORY OF SATOSHI DEFENDING SATOKO. IN A HARSH FAMILY ENVIRONMENT, SATOSHI ACCEPTS A BITTER FATE IN ORDER TO DEFEND SATOKO, AND EVENTUALLY THE BURDEN BECOMES TOO MUCH FOR HIM... IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, SATOKO DID NOTHING BUT HIDE BEHIND HER BROTHER, AND SATOSHI JUST TOOK IT AND REFUSED TO GO TO ANYONE FOR HELP. BOTH OF THEM ARE VERY TRAGIC CHARACTERS. BUT LIKE KEIICHI CORRECTLY DEMONSTRATED IN THE "MASSACRE ARC," WHEN YOU HAVE A PROBLEM THAT YOU CAN'T SOLVE ON YOUR OWN, THE SOLUTION IS NOT TO KEEP IT TO YOURSELF AND MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SATOSHI AND SATOKO SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THEIR PROBLEMS TO ADULTS LIKE THEIR COACH, FOR EXAMPLE, WHO WAS VERY WORRIED ABOUT THEM. BUT FOR SOME REASON, WHEN PEOPLE FIND THEMSELVES IN REALLY TRYING SITUATIONS, THEY HAVE A SAD HABIT OF WITHDRAWING INTO THEIR SHELLS AS A WAY TO GET THROUGH THEIR PROBLEMS, AND THEY TAKE THEMSELVES AWAY FROM THE SOLUTION.

LET'S SAY YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A SITUATION THAT YOU CAN'T CHANGE ON YOUR OWN, AND YOU CAN'T THINK OF A SOLUTION, SO YOU END UP JUST DEALING WITH IT. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE IT CRUSHES YOU...AT THOSE TIMES, JUST LEAVING EVERYTHING TO CHANCE IS NOT THE BEST IDEA. LIKE KEIICHI ONCE DID, WE SHOULD GO TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE CAN TO FIND HELP.

IF SATOSHI AND SATOKO HAD SUMMONED THEIR COURAGE AND FACED THEIR FAMILY SITUATION...THEN THIS MAY HAVE TURNED INTO A MUCH DIFFERENT STORY...WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF KEIICHI HAD COME TO THEIR SCHOOL IN 1982? OR IF *YOU* HAD MOVED TO THEIR SCHOOL IN 1982? HOW COULD YOU HAVE SAVED THEM? I THINK IT WOULD BE VERY NICE IF YOU WOULD THINK ABOUT THOSE THINGS AS YOU READ THIS STORY.

THANK YOU FOR READING THROUGH VOLUME TWO OF THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC." THE SPINNING OF STORY FRAGMENTS HAS REACHED ITS CLIMAX AT LAST. I HOPE YOU WILL WATCH OVER MIYOKO, IRIE, THE CLUB MEMBERS, AND EVERYONE AS THEIR STRONG WILLS WEAVE THE THREADS AND GIVE SHAPE TO HINAMIZAWA'S ULTIMATE DESTINY.

...I RECEIVED THE SAD NEWS THAT ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF 07TH EXPANSION, BT-SAMA, PASSED AWAY ON JULY 10. I CAN'T EXPRESS IN ONE SENTENCE THE POWER BT-SAMA HAD, BUT TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA, HE SET UP AND MANAGED THE MESSAGE BOARDS SO THE OFFICIAL CHARACTER RANKINGS WERE MORE FUN, AND HE WAS LIKE THE MAN TO SEE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH 07TH EXPANSION.

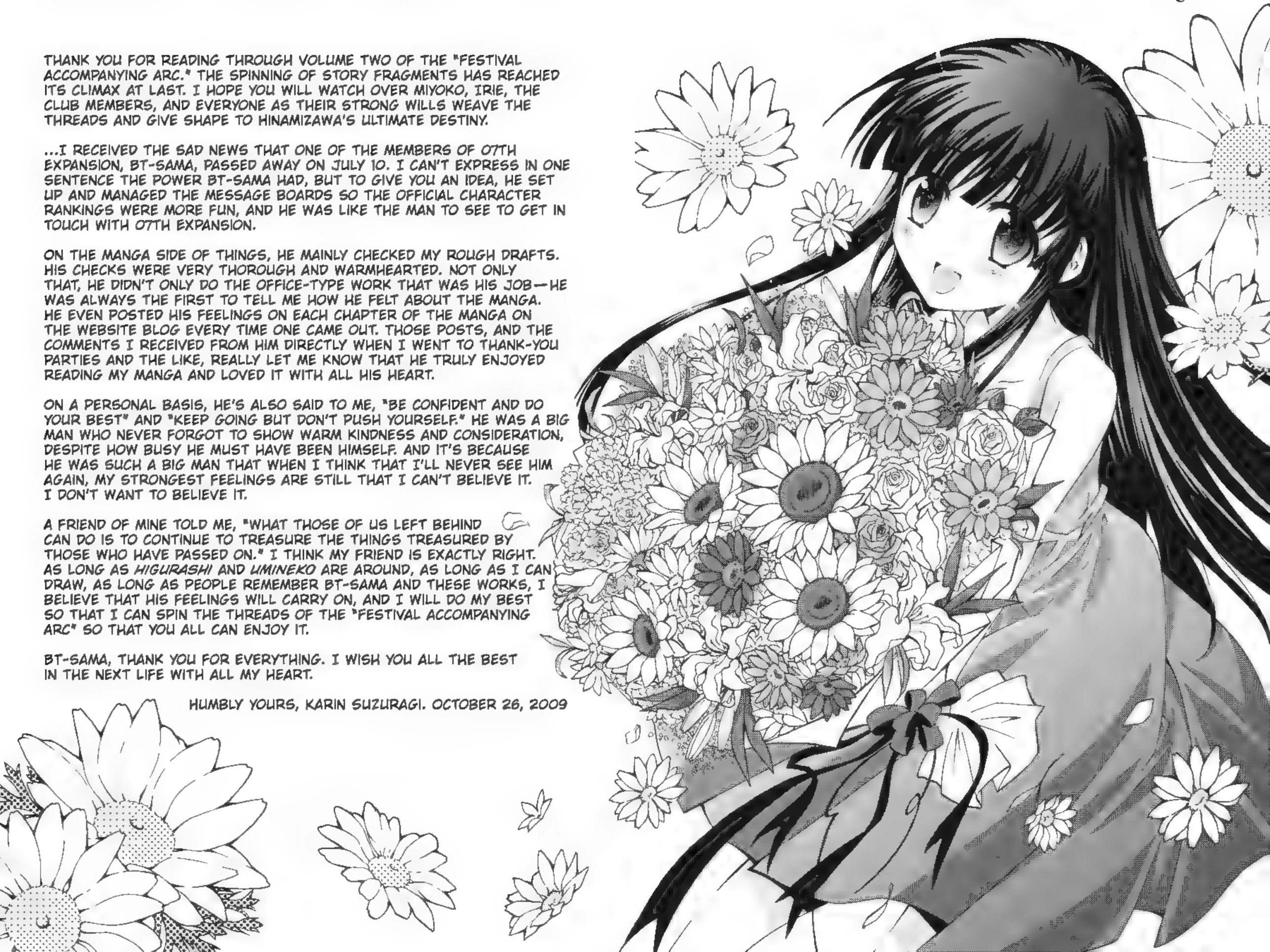
ON THE MANGA SIDE OF THINGS, HE MAINLY CHECKED MY ROUGH DRAFTS. HIS CHECKS WERE VERY THOROUGH AND WARMHEARTED. NOT ONLY THAT, HE DIDN'T ONLY DO THE OFFICE-TYPE WORK THAT WAS HIS JOB—HE WAS ALWAYS THE FIRST TO TELL ME HOW HE FELT ABOUT THE MANGA. HE EVEN POSTED HIS FEELINGS ON EACH CHAPTER OF THE MANGA ON THE WEBSITE BLOG EVERY TIME ONE CAME OUT. THOSE POSTS, AND THE COMMENTS I RECEIVED FROM HIM DIRECTLY WHEN I WENT TO THANK-YOU PARTIES AND THE LIKE, REALLY LET ME KNOW THAT HE TRULY ENJOYED READING MY MANGA AND LOVED IT WITH ALL HIS HEART.

ON A PERSONAL BASIS, HE'S ALSO SAID TO ME, "BE CONFIDENT AND DO YOUR BEST" AND "KEEP GOING BUT DON'T PUSH YOURSELF." HE WAS A BIG MAN WHO NEVER FORGOT TO SHOW WARM KINDNESS AND CONSIDERATION, DESPITE HOW BUSY HE MUST HAVE BEEN HIMSELF. AND IT'S BECAUSE HE WAS SUCH A BIG MAN THAT WHEN I THINK THAT I'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN, MY STRONGEST FEELINGS ARE STILL THAT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT.

A FRIEND OF MINE TOLD ME, "WHAT THOSE OF US LEFT BEHIND CAN DO IS TO CONTINUE TO TREASURE THE THINGS TREASURED BY THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED ON." I THINK MY FRIEND IS EXACTLY RIGHT. AS LONG AS *HIGURASHI* AND *UMINEKO* ARE AROUND, AS LONG AS I CAN DRAW, AS LONG AS PEOPLE REMEMBER BT-SAMA AND THESE WORKS, I BELIEVE THAT HIS FEELINGS WILL CARRY ON, AND I WILL DO MY BEST SO THAT I CAN SPIN THE THREADS OF THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC" SO THAT YOU ALL CAN ENJOY IT.

BT-SAMA, THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING. I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST IN THE NEXT LIFE WITH ALL MY HEART.

HUMBLY YOURS, KARIN SUZURAGI. OCTOBER 26, 2009



Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

CHAPTER 14: A NEW WIND

A WHILE AFTER SATOSHI DISAPPEARED ...

...A CORNER OF HINAMIZAWA WAS PUT UP FOR SALE.

分譲地 発売中!!
園崎不動産
詳しくは
XXX-XXXX

[illegible] LOT FOR SALE [illegible] REALTY FOR DETAILS CALL XXX-XXXX

NORMALLY, SATOKO'S THE ONE WHO HATES OUTSIDERS THE MOST.

I WONDERED WHY SHE DID IT

BUT WHEN SATOKO SPEAKS EVERYONE LISTENS AND SO THE LAND WENT ON SALE

A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE AGAINST IT TRADITIONALLY HINAMIZAWA HAS ALWAYS HATED THE IDEA OF AN INFLUX OF OUTSIDERS

CHAPTER 14: A NEW WIND

SOON AFTER THAT...

YOU'VE ALMOST CLOSED THE DEAL ON THE LOT!?

WHAT!?

I HAVE YOU TO THANK, ORYOU-SAN...

...FOR OFFERING UP SOME SONOZAKI LAND.

I SURE HAVE, MION-CHAN.

I FOUND AN INTER-ESTED BUYER.

...HMPH.

STOP YER BABBLIN'.

ONCE BATCHA SAYS WE'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING, NOBODY CAN FIGHT IT. THE HEAD OF THE SONOZAKI FAMILY CAN SILENCE CRYING BABIES.

HEY, CAN I ASK SOME-THING?

.....

YOU HATE OUTSIDERS. WHY WOULD YOU GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO SELL LAND?

I DO HATE OUTSIDERS, AND I ESPECIALLY HATE CITY FOLK.

BUT.

.....

.....

THE AIR?

IT NEEDS TO CLEAR THE AIR.

THE VILLAGE NEEDS THIS.

WHERE'S SATOSHI? I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU IF YOU DON'T TELL ME!

YOU'RE THE ONE...WHO DEMANDED ANSWERS, REMEMBER?

SAA (SHH)

THE DAY SATOSHI HOJO DISAP-PEARED ...

...JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE HOJOS!?

WHY DO SATOSHI AND SATOKO HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS...

EH?

YOU OPENED MY EYES.

.....

...YEAH, I GUESS I DID...

BUT WE OLD FOLK CAN'T DO IT.

WE NEED TO MOVE THE VILLAGE AWAY FROM THIS TENDENCY TO KEEP PERSECUTIN' 'EM.

WE HAVE TO SOLVE THE HOJO PROBLEM AS FAST AS WE CAN.

.....

SO YOU'RE GOING TO TRUST THAT TO SOME OUTSIDERS?

WE NEED A NEW WIND TO CLEAR THE AIR.

IT'S TOO LATE FOR US TO CHANGE THE VILLAGE. THERE'S TOO MUCH STAGNATION HANGIN' AROUND.

I HOPE IT'S A SPIRITED YOUNG'UN.

HA''

SAA (SHH)

SOMEONE WHO'LL GO AGAINST THE GRAIN ...

...AND PROVE TO US OLD FOLK THAT WE CAN TRUST HIM WITH THE VILLAGE.

.....

A NEW WIND...

SAAA SHHH

AAAA

HI..
THIS PLACE IF WE MOVE (LET'S) THIS PLACE W.. WE BE ABLE TO START OVER?

A COUNTRYSIDE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

SEVERAL TRAIN TRANSFERS AND SEVERAL HOURS FROM TOKYO.

MAYBE HERE...

...WE CAN FORGET THE INCIDENT ...

...AND START ALL OVER AGAIN...

A LITTLE WHILE AGO...

...MY SON KEIICHI CAUSED SOME TROUBLE.

HE SHOT AN INNOCENT GIRL WITH A MODEL GUN, AND SHE WAS BADLY HURT.

AS HIS PARENTS, WE FAILED TO SEE HOW MUCH PRESSURE HE FELT.

THE STRESS FROM ALL THE TIME HE SPENT STUDYING DROVE HIM TO IT.

WE'LL START AGAIN IN A NEW HOME.

WE NEED TO REPENT AND BEAR OUR OWN CROSSES

BUT IT WAS OUR FAULT TOO. WE PUSHED HIM TO THAT POINT.

OF COURSE KEIICHI WAS WRONG TO DO WHAT HE DID.

I CAME HERE IN SEARCH OF A PLACE WHERE WE COULD DO JUST THAT.

IS THIS THE LOT FOR SALE...?

SIGN: LOT FOR SALE!! SONOZAKI REALTY, FOR DETAILS, CALL XXX-XXXX

AN EMPTY COUNTRY-SIDE THAT DOESN'T EVEN COMPARE TO THE CITY.

I LIKE THE TASTE OF THE AIR, BUT THERE'S NOTHING OUT HERE.

...MAYBE I SHOULD LOOK INTO SOME OTHER PLACES...

WILL KEIICHI BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT?

THIS PLACE IS SO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM HIS CURRENT LIVING ENVIRON-MENT.

I'M OVER HERE, SIR!

UUH, UUH, UUH!

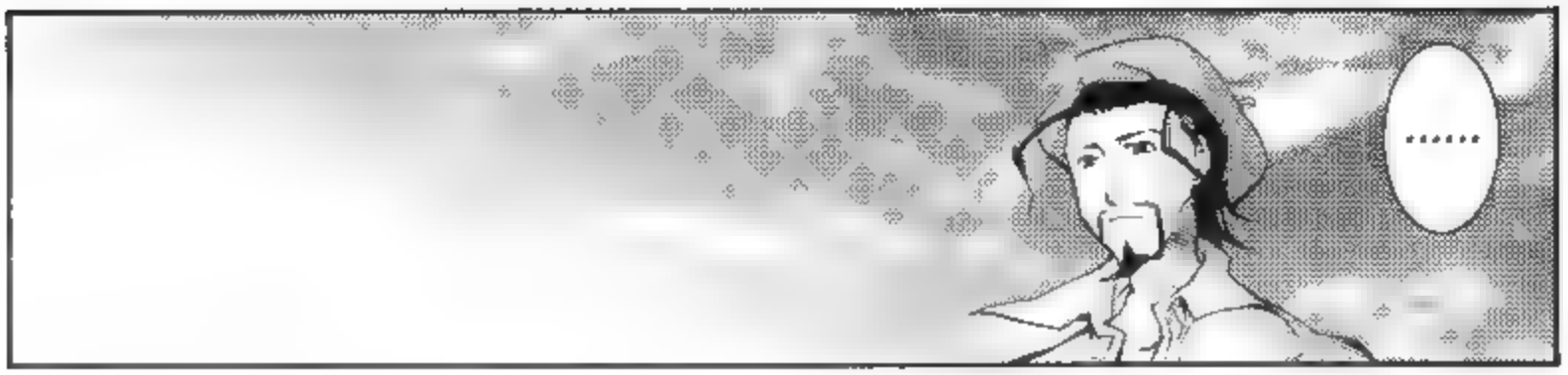
は…

HA (GASP)

?

ZAA

ZAZA (ZSHU)


.....

LOCAL CHILDREN...

...SINCE I'VE SEEN KEIICHI SMILE LIKE THAT?
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN...

...I NEVER EVEN REALIZED THAT HE'D STOPPED SMILING.

UP UNTIL THE INCIDENT ...

IF WE MOVE HERE, KEIICHI WILL PROBABLY MEET THEM AT SCHOOL.

THEY'RE NOT THAT MUCH YOUNGER THAN KEIICHI.

KYA

KYA (WHEE)

THEN MAYBE THEY'LL BE HIS FRIENDS.

...AND I'M SURE THEY WON'T BE THE ONLY ONES.

THOSE GIRLS WOULD PROBABLY NEVER TALK TO KEIICHI ABOUT CRAM SCHOOL OR MOCK EXAM RESULTS.

HM...

ZAAA (ZSHHH)

ALL THE KIDS HERE IN HINAMIZAWA WOULD BE THE SAME...

.....

THESE ARE THE KINDS OF FRIENDS THAT KEIICHI NEEDS.

I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND THINGS HERE THAT YOU'LL NEVER FIND IN THE CITY, SIR.

.....

YES, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

...AND YOU, SIR, WILL BRING SOMETHING FROM THE CITY...

...THAT THIS VILLAGE DOESN'T HAVE.

DO YOU... REALLY THINK WE HAVE ANY-THING THIS VILLAGE NEEDS?

OF COURSE YOU DO, SIR! UUH, UUH.

.....?

...THAT'S WHY WE WANT TO SEE SOMEONE NEW IN THE VILLAGE.

HU

ZAA (ZSHH)

...WE'VE BEEN THE SAME IN THIS VILLAGE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

NO ONE VISITS, AND NOTHING HAPPENS, SIR.

AND NOTHING CAN BE CHANGED.

IF THIS VILLAGE IS A MUDDY SWAMP THAT'S BEEN STOPPED UP AND ALL THE WATER HAS STOPPED FLOWING...

...THEN WE WANT YOU TO BE THE CLEAR STREAM THAT WILL BREAK THROUGH THE CLOG.

SHOW US THAT WE CAN BREAK THROUGH CLOGS.

THAT THAT'S WHAT YOU DO TO THEM.

...AND YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WILL SHOW US.

...IS THAT THESE VILLAGERS ARE WAITING FOR NEW PEOPLE TO COME HERE.

BUT THE ONE THING I DO UNDER-STAND...

I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT SHE'S SAYING.

...IS THIS SOME KIND OF A RIDDLE GAME?

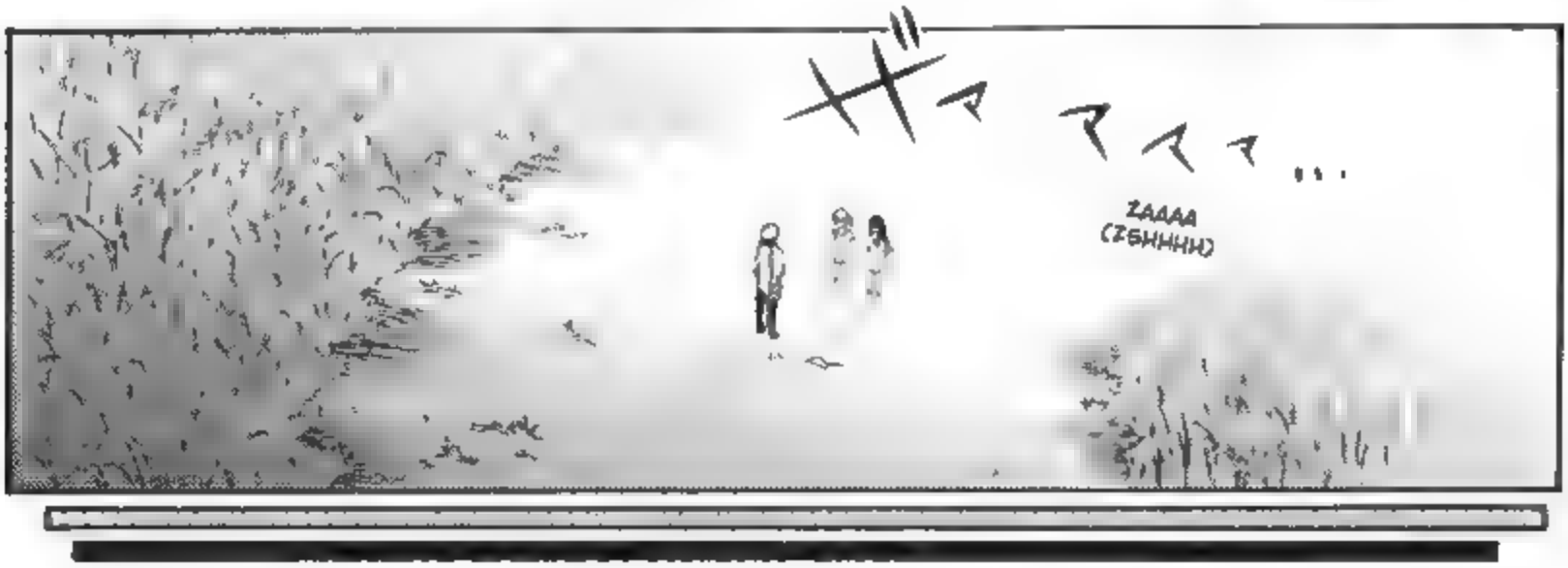
.....

...WILL YOU BE MY SON'S FRIENDS?

...IF WE MOVE HERE...

HEH...

WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU TO MOVE IN...
... MAEBARA, SIR.


ZAAAA (ZSHHHH)

THE WIND CERTAINLY IS STRONG TONIGHT.

I WONDER IF THERE'S A STORM COMING.

AND WE WERE ABLE TO PROVE MORE AND MORE OF THE POSITS IN GRANDPA'S THESIS.

WE WERE ABLE TO GAIN A FEW SPECIMENS, WHICH PUT SOME WIND IN OUR SAILS.

THE RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME WAS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY.

HA HA HA...

I HOPE THIS CONVINCES THE TOKYO BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO RAISE OUR BUDGET AGAIN.

PASA (RUSTLE)

H173 IS ALMOST READY FOR USE...

BUT WE WERE NOWHERE NEAR COMPLETING THE PUZZLE SURROUNDING THIS LOCAL DISEASE.

THE LEADERS IN TOKYO, THE GROUP BACKING OUR RESEARCH, THINK VERY HIGHLY OF IT.

...GAINED ATTENTION FOR THEIR POTENTIAL MILITARY APPLICA-TIONS.

THE H170 DRUG SERIES, DRUGS THAT ARTIFICIALLY INDUCE HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME...

GRANDPA KOIZUMI MUST BE DELIGHTED TOO.

I HAD FORGOTTEN.

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...

TAKANO-SAN, YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL FROM FIRST LIEUTENANT TOMITAKE IN TOKYO.

AT ANY TIME, WITHOUT WARNING ...

...GOD LIKES TO ROLL DICE TO TOY WITH PEOPLE'S DESTINIES.

WHAT !!?

GATAN (CLATTER)

Just a short while ago...

...President Koizumi passed away.

IT WAS A HEART ATTACK.

THEY CALLED AN AMBULANCE RIGHT AWAY, BUT IT DIDN'T ARRIVE IN TIME.

GRANDPA KOIZUMI.

HE SUPPORTED THE RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

HE HELPED ME CARRY ON GRANDPA'S WORK.

GRANDPA'S FRIEND.

THE ONLY MAN WHO EVER UNDERSTOOD ...

...GRANDPA TAKANO AND MYSELF.

WHEN I CALLED HIM GRANDPA...

...HE WOULD SMILE BASHFULLY BACK AT ME.

BUT NOW HE'LL NEVER SHOW ME THAT SMILE AGAIN.

GUI (WIPE)

POTA (DRIP)

TO COMPLETE THE RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

...IS TO ACCOMPLISH THE RESEARCH HE PAVED THE WAY FOR.

THE BEST WAY TO PAY HIM BACK...

...I'LL REVIVE GRANDPA KOIZUMI'S NAME ALONG WITH IT.

WHEN I MAKE THE WORLD ACKNOWLEDGE HIFUMI TAKANO'S RESEARCH...

THAT IS HOW I WILL REPAY HIM FOR EVERYTHING HE DID FOR ME.

BUT THE WIND CHANGES DIRECTION WITHOUT WARNING.

ZA (ZSH)

I HAD NO IDEA...

...JUST HOW MUCH GRANDPA KOIZUMI HAD HELPED ME.

...NOW THAT HE HAD PASSED AWAY.

OR WHAT WOULD HAPPEN ...

FIRST LIEUTENANT TOMITAKE, IF YOU WOULD.

...OF THE DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WHICH WAS REORGANIZED AFTER PRESIDENT KOIZUMI'S DEATH.

WE'VE COME TO NOTIFY YOU ALL ...

...THERE WERE INTENSE FACTIONAL DISPUTES WITHIN TOKYO.

I HAD HEARD THAT AFTER GRANDPA KOIZUMI PASSED...

I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS OFFICIAL BEFORE.

...THIS IS THE DECISION OF THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

THE RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE IBM INSTITUTE ON THE MILITARY USES OF MINAMIZAWA SYNDROME...

...HAS BEEN DEEMED TOO DANGEROUS AND IS TO BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY.

WH...

...WHAT ...?

FURTHERMORE, THE RESEARCH FOR THE CURE AND ERADICATION OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME...

...IS TO BE CONCLUDED WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS...

...DURING WHICH TIME FUNDING WILL BE DECREASED IN STAGES.

.....!

...NO...

...TH-THEN...

WE'LL NEVER FINISH...

OUR AIM WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS IS TO ABOLISH THE IRIE INSTITUTE...

...AND TO CEASE RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

THE WIND TURNED AGAINST ME...

...ALL TOO SUDDENLY.

ZAAAAAA (ZSHHHHH)

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

CHAPTER 15: ONES ON THE DICE

OUR AIM WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS IS TO ABOLISH THE IRIE INSTITUTE...

...AND TO CEASE RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

THEY'RE GOING TO STOP GRANDPA'S RESEARCH?

THAT'S ABSURD ...

THE IRIE INSTITUTE WAS ESTABLISHED TO STUDY THIS STRANGE DISEASE AND FIND A CURE ...

...AS WELL AS TO INVESTIGATE THE DISEASE'S POTENTIAL MILITARY APPLICATIONS.

YOU HAVE ALREADY DEVELOPED A TEST DRUG THAT CAN ARTIFICIALLY INDUCE THE SYMPTOMS OF THE SYNDROME.

BUT IF IT WERE TO BE DISCOVERED THAT WE ARE RESEARCHING BIOLOGICAL WEAPONRY HERE IN JAPAN...

...THEN THE NATION WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO FLOODS OF INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM.

THE NEW BOARD IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THAT POSSIBILITY.

NOW THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT THAT?

THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A COUP IN TOKYO.

(CLENCH)

TOKYO IS THE IRIE INSTITUTE'S BACKER.

WE CAN'T GO AGAINST THEIR WISHES.

THEREFORE, WE HAVE FIRST COME TO INFORM YOU OF THE IMMEDIATE CANCELLATION OF THE MILITARY RESEARCH.

DR. IRIE, WE REQUEST THAT YOU DISPOSE OF EVERY PIECE OF RESEARCH AND EVERY TEST DRUG.

...CERTAINLY, SIR.

...
WE STILL NEED THE TEST DRUG RESEARCH MATERIAL! IT HAS COUNTLESS ITEMS IN IT VITAL TO THE STUDY OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME!

REGARD-LESS OF THE PROS AND CONS OF THE MILITARY RESEARCH ...

WAIT, PLEASE!

BAN (BAM)

WE CAN'T ALLOW ANY OF THE RESULTS OF THE MILITARY RESEARCH TO REMAIN.

THE MATTER HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.

FURTHER-MORE...

NGH...

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ABSOLUTE CONFIDENTIALITY, THE NEW BOARD ...

...WOULD LIKE TO ELIMINATE THE VERY EXISTENCE OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

YES.

THE VERY EXISTENCE ...SIR?

—?

...AND ERADICATE HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME COMPLETELY.

YOU ARE THEN TO ADMINISTER IT TO EVERY CITIZEN...

TO THAT END, THE IRIE INSTITUTE IS TO FIND A CURE FOR HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

WE DON'T WANT TO LEAVE A SINGLE TRACE OF ANYTHING THAT COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON JAPAN.

HINAM-IZAWA SYNDROME NEVER EXISTED.

WE WILL MAKE IT SO.

—!!

...FAR FROM COMPLETING GRANDPA'S RESEARCH...

IF THAT HAPPENS ...

HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME WILL NEVER HAVE EXISTED ...

CONFIDEN-TIALITY... ERADICATE THE DISEASE ...

...IT WILL BE AS IF THAT RESEARCH NEVER EVEN HAPPENED.

KOIZUMI-SENSEI HAD A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE IRIE INSTITUTE

THERE WERE MANY WHO SPOKE OUT AGAINST SUCH DANGEROUS RESEARCH.

BUT KOIZUMI-SENSEI QUIETED THEM ALL.

GYU (SQUEEZE)

TAKANO-SAN ONCE TOLD ME...

.....

...THE OPPOSITION HAS COME INTO POWER.

...SO NOW THAT KOIZUMI-SENSEI IS GONE...

SHE WAS DOING THIS ALL TO GRANT THE LIFELONG WISH OF HIFUMI TAKANO-SENSEI, THE MAN WHO RAISED HER.

...SHE WASN'T SIMPLY CAPTIVATED BY THE ALLURE OF THE RESEARCH.

THE GOAL THAT HAS BEEN SUPPORTING HER ALL THIS TIME IS ABOUT TO VANISH COMPLETELY...

...SHE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THAT DREAM.

IF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME WERE TO BE ERASED FROM HISTORY...

NO ONE WOULD SPARE A SECOND GLANCE FOR RESEARCH ON AN EXTINCT DISEASE.

GOD...

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP...

TAKANO-SAN...

?

I WON'T LET HIM BEAT ME.

I CAN'T LET HIM BEAT ME.

ZA (ZSH)

...IS ROLLING MORE ONES FOR ME...

NOT NOW...

TAKANO-SAN...

THIS RESEARCH IS SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO SHAKE THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF MANKIND.

WE'RE TRYING TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF HINAMI-ZAWA SYNDROME.

I CAN'T LET THEM CONSIGN THE DISEASE TO OBLIVION LIKE THIS.

AFTER THAT, I USED KOIZUMI-SENSEI'S OLD CONNECTIONS ...

...TO APPROACH EACH MEMBER TO SEE IF I COULD SOMEHOW CONVINCE THEM TO OVERTURN THE DECISION.

...SO THEY'LL KEEP THE IRIE INSTITUTE RUNNING.

I HAVE TO MAKE THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS UNDERSTAND ...

THE REAL POWER IN THE NEW BOARD HAD ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED, AND THEY ALL REACTED INDIFFERENTLY TO MY PLEAS.

AND I PERSUADED THEM TO GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAL FOR THE CONTINUATION OF MY RESEARCH.

UNDAUNTED, I KEPT CONTACTING THEM AND NEGOTIATING WITH THEM.

OH.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME YOUR VALUABLE TIME TODAY.

I AM MAJOR TAKANO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE IRIE INSTITUTE.

URCHIN'S VERY GOOD FOR YOU. RICH IN VITAMIN A.

WOMEN LOVE IT, DON'T THEY!

WE HEARD THERE WOULD BE SOME DELICIOUS SEA URCHIN TO EAT.

WE'RE NOT TAKING TIME OUT OF OUR SCHEDULES FOR YOU.

HA HA HA...

THESE MEN DON'T HAVE A SHRED OF INTEREST IN WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

THEY ONLY CAME TO KEEP THE MEN WHO INVITED THEM FROM LOSING FACE.

BUT, WELL, YOU CAN NEVER GET URCHIN FOR FREE.

LET'S GET THIS BOTHERSOME SPEECH OUT OF THE WAY SO WE CAN SAVOR THE MEAL AFTER-WARD.

BUT THEY ALL HAVE A LOT OF INFLUENCE OVER THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

THEY HOLD THE DESTINY OF THE IRIE INSTITUTE IN THEIR HANDS.

I WILL MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF OUR RESEARCH.

I'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS.

I SPENT A LOT OF TIME AND MATERIAL MAKING THESE PACKETS SO THAT EVEN SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER HEARD OF THE RESEARCH COULD UNDERSTAND IT.

OASA (RUSTLE)

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE PACKETS I HANDED OUT TO EACH OF YOU.

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN WHAT HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME IS ALL ABOUT.

THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE; I HAVE TO MAKE IT COUNT.

A DISCOVERY THAT WILL COMPLETELY CHANGE EVERYTHING WE ASSUMED TO BE TRUE... TOO GREAT FOR EVEN THE NOBEL PRIZE.

THE POSSIBILITY THAT HUMAN THOUGHT, RELIGION, AND IDEOLOGIES ARE THE PRODUCT OF A PARASITE.

THE UNPRECEDENTED EXISTENCE OF A PARASITE THAT CAN CONTROL THE HUMAN BRAIN.

I GAVE THEM ALL A CAREFUL AND THOROUGH EXPLANATION OF THE TRUE WORTH OF OUR RESEARCH.

THE VALUE OF THE RESEARCH TO WHICH HIFUMI TAKANO DEDICATED HIS LIFE!

11:40:00

PASA (RUSTLE)

HEH... HEH HEH.

?

I HOPE THIS WILL PERSUADE YOU TO RECONSIDER THE BOARD'S DECISION ABOUT THE IRIE INSTITUTE.

YES... PLEASE.

...IS IT OVER?

AND THAT IS ALL.

THIS IS CLASSIC!

WA-HA-HA-HA-HA!!

PAAN (WHAP)

BUT YOU SEE, YOU'RE...

OH, EXCUSE ME.

HEH HEH...

PAN

PAN

...YOU'RE SUGGESTING THAT A PARASITE LIVING IN THE BRAIN CAN CONTROL HUMAN THOUGHTS AND PERSON-ALITIES?

NO...

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'VE ALREADY IDENTIFIED THE PATHOGEN THAT CAUSES HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME ...

TO THINK WE WERE INVESTING SUCH ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF MONEY INTO THIS DELUSION!

IT'S SUCH A... UNIQUE IDEA!

WA HA HA HA!

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY— YOUR DELUSIONS HAVE GONE TOO FAR.

BUT TO SUGGEST THAT RELIGION AND IDEOLOGIES ARE ALL CREATED BY A PARASITE?

THAT'S WHY WE'RE LOOKING FOR A CURE TO ERADICATE IT.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS "HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME" DOES INDEED EXIST.

...HINAMI-ZAWA SYNDROME CLEARLY PRESENTS THAT POSSIBIL-ITY ...

BUT AS IT STATES IN HIFUMI TAKANO'S THESIS...

DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT THE BUDDHA AND MUHAMMAD WERE ACTUALLY PARASITES?

DO (DUN)

BUT... BECAUSE OF THE BRAIN PARA-SITE'S CONTROL ...

THE DIREC-TION OF ONE'S MENTAL-ITY—

BUT I THINK THE REAL PROBLEM DOES LIE IN THIS TAKANO MAN WHO DISCOVERED THE DISEASE.

I MEAN, YOU, MAJOR, AND KOIZUMI-SENSEI ARE A LITTLE... YOU KNOW... FOR BELIEVING THIS THEORY.

HMM... ABOUT THIS "TAKANO-SAN."

I'M SURE HE WOULD LOVE TO READ THIS.

A FRIEND OF MINE IS THE PRESIDENT OF A PUBLISHING COMPANY...

WITH ALL THE HOPES AND DELUSIONS MIXED INTO THIS, I WOULD SAY IT'S MORE A WORK OF FICTION THAN A THESIS.

KASA

KASA (RUSTLE)

.....

WHAT'S... GOING ON...?

わっはっはっはっ...

WA HA HA HA HA...

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING ?

WHY...?

ADVANCEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC WORLD WOULD BE A BREEZE IF THIS WERE COUNTED AS CREDIBLE RESEARCH.

A PARASITE CONTROLLING PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS?

IT'S UTTERLY ABSURD.

JUST LIKE WHEN GRANDPA MADE HIS PRESENTATION ...

IT'S THE SAME...AS BEFORE...

... WORKED SO HARD...

GRANDPA ...

THEY'RE REJECTING HIS RESEARCH.

THEY'RE MAKING A LAUGHING-STOCK OF GRANDPA AGAIN.

WHY...?

WHY...?

HA (GASP)

PASH!! (SLAP)

ガタ…
GATA (CLATTER)

…DUSTLE

…H…

PARDON ME. I NEED TO USE THE FACILITIES.

GUSHA (SCRUNCH)

GRANDPA'S... THESIS...

AH...!

D...

?

DON'T STEP ON THAT...

TA (TEP)

DON'T STEP ON IT!!

ST...

STEP ON WHAT?

THAT'S GRANDPA'S PRECIOUS THESIS!

GUI

GUI (TUG)

DON'T STEP ON IT!

DON'T STEP ON IT!

POTA

POTA

POTA (DRIP)

HE WORKED SO HARD TO WRITE THAT!

DON'T BE MEAN TO MY GRANDPA !!

T-TAKANO-KUN...?

PLEASE!!

PLEASE!

NN

NNGH

GUI

GUI (TUG)

GUI

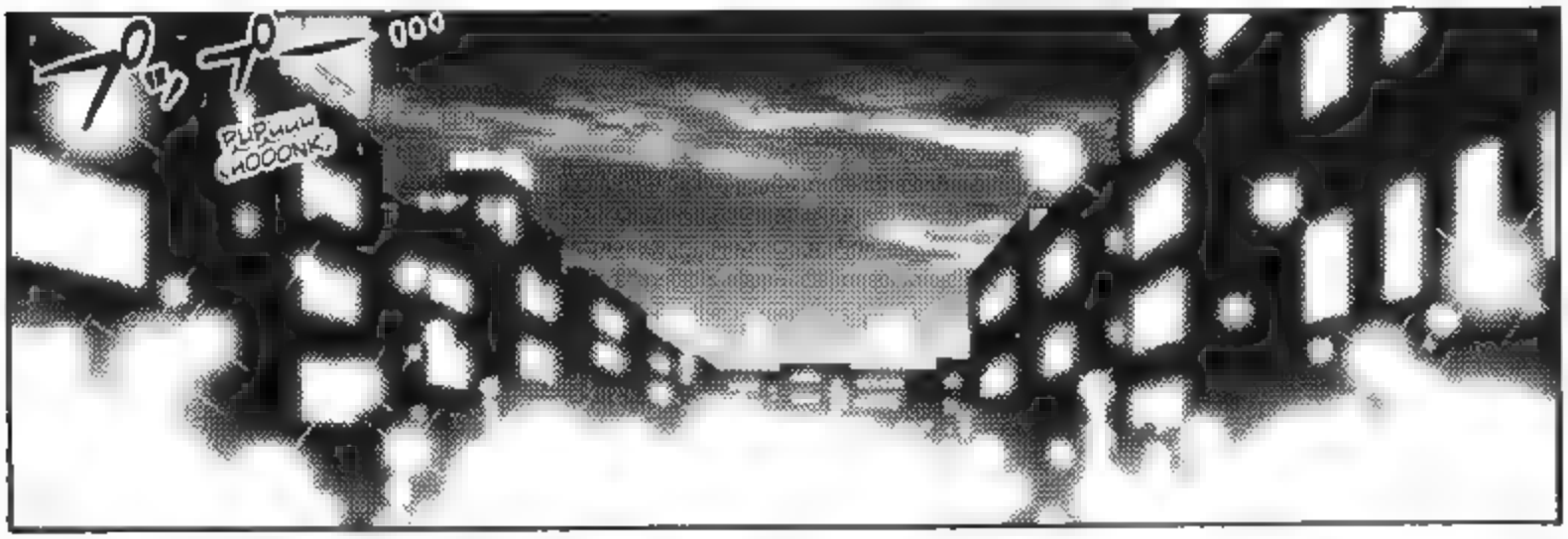
ZU (CLENCH)

DON'T TRAMPLE MY GRANDPA'S THESIS...

PLEASE...

PLEASE ...

KHN
HIC!
HIC!


PLIRuuu
nOOONK.
ooo

ZAWA
ZAWA
(MuRMuR)
ooo

ZAWA

ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA

...
GRANDPA'S RESEARCH.

THEY DEFILED...

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE EVEN OFFERED TO HELP.

UP UNTIL NOW, THEY HAD NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR IT.

...THEY'RE SO COLD TO IT. THEY'VE ALL MADE A COMPLETE 180.

AND YET... NOW THAT KOIZUMI-SENSEI IS DEAD...

カツ!!/-/..

KATSUN (CLACK)

IT WAS ALL AN ACT.

I GET IT.

NONE OF THEM ACTUALLY THOUGHT ANYTHING OF THE THESIS ITSELF.

THEY WERE ALL JUST PRETENDING TO THINK HIGHLY OF THE RESEARCH TO GET ON KOIZUMI-SENSEI'S GOOD SIDE.

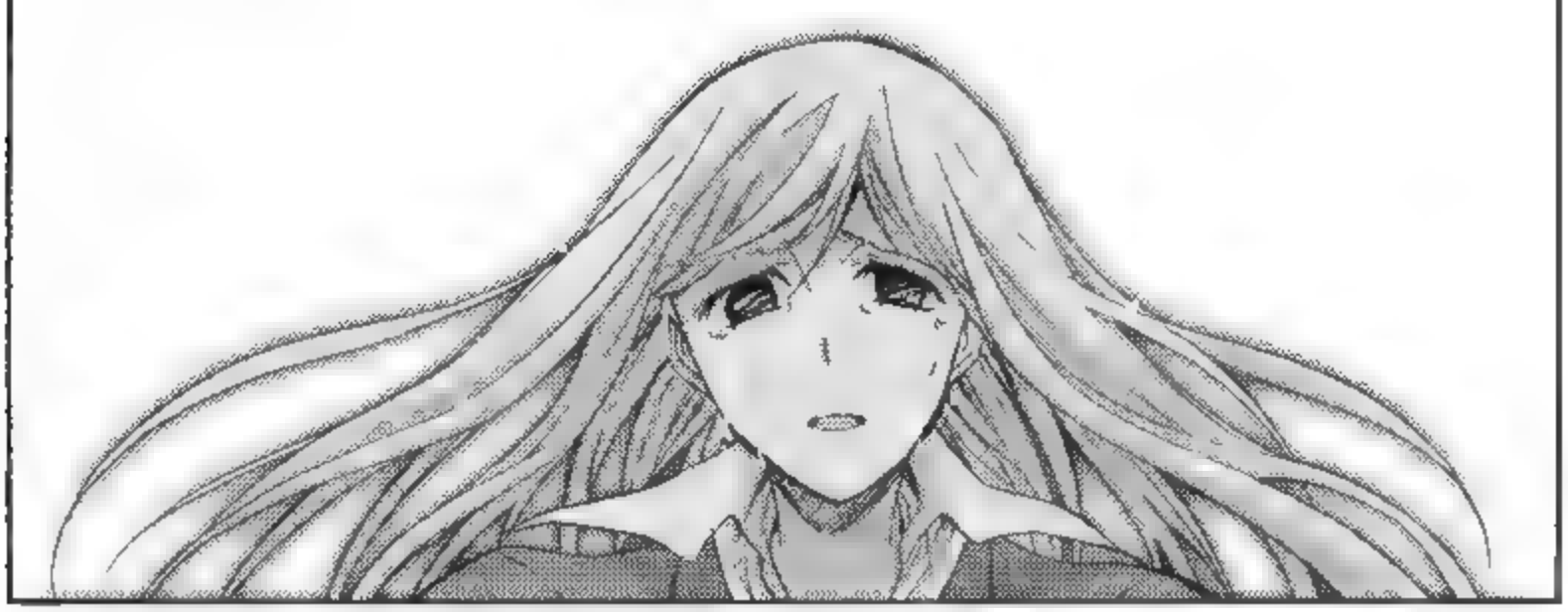
...SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

BORO

...I SEE.

BORO (POUR)

BORO



...NEVER MEANT A THING TO ANY OF THEM.
OUR RESEARCH...

ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
(MURMUR)

BECAUSE IT NO LONGER HAS ANY USE TO THEM.

SO THEY'RE GOING TO BURY HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME AND EVERYTHING ABOUT IT IN DARKNESS.

THEY COULDN'T HAVE CARED LESS.

THAT'S WHY THEY'RE GOING TO ERASE IT

GRANDPA'S THESIS WILL NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY AGAIN.

THE PATHOGEN WILL BE WIPED OUT, AND THERE WILL NEVER BE A PLACE TO PRESENT THE FRUITS OF OUR RESEARCH.

I'VE FOUGHT IT EVERY TIME.

GOD'S DICE ARE ALWAYS TOYING WITH ME.

MY PARENTS DIED, MY GRANDFATHER DIED...

I CAN'T STAND AGAINST THIS.

BUT I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING ELSE TO DO.

THERE'S NOTHING...

...LEFT FOR ME TO DO.

NO.

THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO.

YOU JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO IT.

...?

WHO ARE YOU ...?

MY NAME IS NOMURA. I COME FROM TOKYO.

KATSUN (CLACK)

I CAN TEACH YOU.

クス…

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

...TO SHAKE THE WORLD AND MAKE YOUR WISH COME TRUE.

THE ONE THING YOU CAN DO...

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

CHAPTER 16: INVITATION TO THE END

HOW LONG MUST GOD TOY WITH ME BEFORE HE'S SATISFIED?

AND THEN I WAS APPROACHED BY...

EVERYTHING WAS DENIED ME.

THEY WANT TO ERASE THE VERY DISEASE FROM EXISTENCE.

THEY DECIDED TO PUT A STOP TO THE HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME RESEARCH.

MY NAME IS NOMURA. I COME FROM TOKYO.

WHO IN THE WORLD IS THIS WOMAN?

VROOOO...

THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS TOOK COMPLETE CONTROL OF TOKYO

AFTER KOIZUMI-SENSEI'S DEATH...

THAT'S WHY THEY DECIDED TO CRUSH THE HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME RESEARCH.

BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE FROM TOKYO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME NOW?

BUT...

GU (CLENCH)

SHE KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE TOKYO.

SO SHE WASN'T LYING WHEN SHE SAID THAT'S WHERE SHE WAS FROM.

IT WAS ONLY SHUT DOWN BECAUSE THERE WAS A FACTION AGAINST IT.

...ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RESEARCH WASN'T SHUT DOWN BECAUSE OF ITS CONTENT.

.....

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO LOSE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR RESEARCH.

TAKANO-SAN.

BIKU (TWITCH)

SU (PAT)

IF THAT'S THE ONLY CONSOLATION YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME...

EVEN SO...

...THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT THE RESEARCH IS GOING TO BE STOPPED.

MY OBJECTIVE?

HA (GASP)

YOUR OBJECTIVE IN STUDYING HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S LIKE SHE CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH ME.

WHAT IS THAT LOOK IN HER EYES?

...TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

THAT IS MY ONLY—

NO. IT'S NOT.

YOUR *TRUE* GOAL IN PURSUING THIS RESEARCH ...

...IS TO...

...AVENGE YOUR GRAND-FATHER.

I'M IT NOT?

!!

ZOOOO

YOU WANT TO PAY THEM BACK FOR THAT.

JUST AS YOUR OWN RESEARCH WAS TRAMPLED.

THE LATE HIFUMI TAKANO'S THESIS WAS ONCE TRAMPLED BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES.

THAT IS THE ONE THOUGHT THAT HAS PUSHED YOU TO ADVANCE THE RESEARCH ON HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME

I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE .....

WHAT...? HOW DOES SHE KNOW THAT?

.....

ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

WHAT IS SHE?

クス…
KUSU (CHUCKLE)

I HEARD THIS FROM KOIZUMI-SENSEI.

HUH?

ぎゅ…
GYU (SQUEEZE)

AS UNWORTHY AS I AM, I WANT TO CARRY ON KOIZUMI-SENSEI'S LEGACY.

I AM NOT YOUR ENEMY.

.....

I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WANT TO HELP YOU.

IS NOT SOMETHING SO ABSTRACT AS SEARCHING OUT THE MYSTERIES OF HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME.

YOUR DREAM...

...SHOULD LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

YOUR REAL GOAL...

KEY FIGURES IN THIS COUNTRY, THOSE WHO TRULY STAND AT THE TOP...

...READ TAKANO-SENSEI'S THESIS.

THOUGH SURPRISED BY ITS CONTENT, THEY BELIEVE EVERY WORD, BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT.

THEY TREMBLE WITH FEAR AND RESPECT AS THEY CONSIDER THE RESEARCH AND ITS OVERFLOWING FORESIGHT.

THEY READ THE THESIS REVERENTLY.

THEN, "HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME" ...

... THE TERM INVENTED BY YOUR GRAND-FATHER...

...WILL BE HEARD IN EVERY CORNER OF THE NATION...

...HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BOW DOWN BE-FORE THE VALIDITY OF THAT THESIS.

AND THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW BOARD, THE MEN THAT TRAMPLED YOUR THESIS...

ETCHED INTO ETERNITY.

GRANDPA'S NAME...

...ETCHED INTO ETERNITY...

...WAS FOR HIS RESEARCH TO BE ACCEPTED AND FOR MY GRANDFATHER TO BE PRAISED FOR ETERNITY...TO BECOME A GOD.

SHE'S RIGHT. MY WISH...

YOU WERE SO FOCUSED ON THAT MEANS THAT YOU LOST SIGHT OF THE GOAL.

UNDER-STANDING HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME WAS ONLY THE MEANS TO THAT END.

...BUT WHAT OTHER MEANS COULD THERE BE?

TO GET PEOPLE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RESEARCH, I HAVE TO PROVE ITS VALIDITY... THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.

HA!! (SWAT)

HU!! GU (GRIT)

EH?

THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE IT SO THAT HINAMIZAWA SYNDROME NEVER EXISTED.

AND THAT PATH IS ABOUT TO BE CLOSED OFF FOREVER.

YOU STILL HAVE ONE LAST CARD TO PLAY.

THE QUEEN CAR-RIER.

RIKA FURUDE.

WHAT...?

BURORORO

MIIIN (BUZZZZ)

ミーン

ミンミンミン…

MIN MIN MIN

ゴゴゴ

DEA DUN

THIS IS THE SCHOOL?

TH...

MIIIN (BUZZZZ)

ミーン

ミンミンミン…

MIN MIN MIN

YES...

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

KUSU

クス

クス…

WA-HA-HA! WELL, HE HAS A POINT.

KEIICHI, DON'T SAY THAT.

W... WOW. WE REALLY ARE OUT IN THE BOONIES.

Y.. YES, MA'AM...

I HOPE YOU'LL SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR YOUR UNDER-CLASSMEN.

WHEN YOU TRANSFER HERE, YOU'LL BE THE OLDEST BOY IN THE SCHOOL, MAEBARA-KUN.

WE'RE RENTING THE PROPERTY FROM FOREST SERVICES.

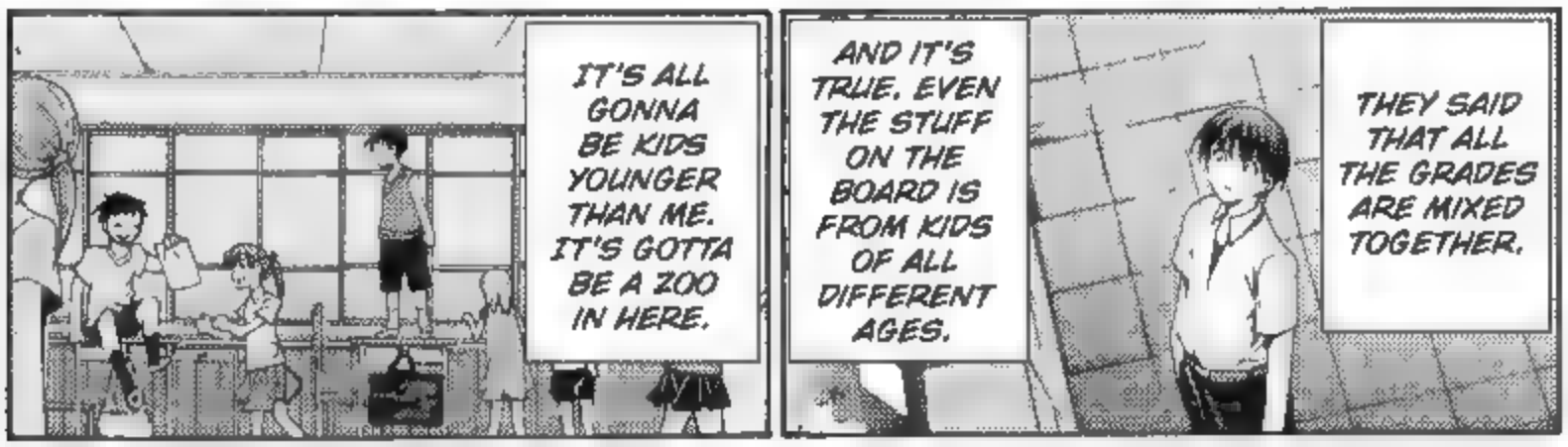
WELL, WE NEED TO DISCUSS THE TRANSFER PROCE-DURES.

FEEL FREE TO TAKE A LOOK AROUND, MAEBARA-KUN.

ガラ
GARA (RATTLE)

SO THIS IS THE CLASS-ROOM...

SIGNS: CHEER, FRIEND


IT'S ALL GONNA BE KIDS YOUNGER THAN ME. IT'S GOTTA BE A ZOO IN HERE.
AND IT'S TRUE. EVEN THE STUFF ON THE BOARD IS FROM KIDS OF ALL DIFFERENT AGES.
THEY SAID THAT ALL THE GRADES ARE MIXED TOGETHER.

MIIIN (BUZZZZ)

MIIN

MIIN

BUT...

I BET IT'LL BE FUN.

AT FIRST, I COULDN'T HAVE WANTED TO MOVE LESS.

...I STARTED DOING SOMETHING REALLY STUPID—I ATTACKED KIDS WITH A MODEL GUN.

AFTER DOING NOTHING BUT STUDY, STUDY, STUDY...

BUT DAD INSISTED, AND WE MOVED HERE TO HINAMIZAWA.

ZA (ZSH)

UNDER THE WEIGHT OF MY CRIMES, I EVEN LOST THE WILL TO GO ON LIVING.

I THINK I CAN START ALL OVER FROM SQUARE ONE.

?

YOU FINALLY MOVED HERE, SIR.

BECAUSE YOU'RE THE SIX ON THE DIE, KEIICHI, SIR.

WE WERE TIRED OF WAITING, SIR.
BUT NOW THINGS WILL CHANGE.

KEIICHI? THEY KNOW MY NAME?

ARE THEY STUDENTS HERE...?

にぱーー★

NIPAAA (BEAM)

UUH, UHH, UUH! LET'S BE FRIENDS, SIR!

HEE-HEE!☆ ARE YOU TRANSFER-RING HERE, SIR?

HUH ...?

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS, HOW TO HAVE FUN WITH THOSE FRIENDS...

KIRA (SPARKLE)

KIRA

KIRA

...LOTS OF THINGS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY BOOK LEARNING.

SU-SURE...

I'M GOING TO BE LEARNING WITH THEM.

...RIGHT. I HAVE TO BE NICE.

GYU (CLENCH)

NICE TO MEET YOU.

I'M KEIICHI MAEBARA.

NICE TO MEET YOU, KEIICHI, SIR!

I'M NEVER GOING BACK TO BEING THE OLD, CHILDISH KEIICHI.

I WON'T MAKE THE STUPID MISTAKE OF THINKING THAT THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND SOMEONE JUST BECAUSE THEY GET GOOD GRADES.

THIS TIME, I WILL BECOME THE KEIICHI MAEBARA I REALLY WANT TO BE.

AND I'M STARTING NOW!!

++++++...

WILL WE BREAK THROUGH THIS TIME?

BREAK THROUGH THE DEAD END OF OUR DES-TINY?

NOW, AT LAST, KEIICHI IS HERE.

THIS IS MOST LIKELY OUR LAST CHANCE.

IF WE CAN'T BREAK THROUGH THIS TIME...

...THEN WE'LL NEVER...

ZAAA
(ZSHHH)

ピタ…
PITA
(STOP)

SHE'S COME.

WITH THE PLAN NOMURA GAVE ME...

...THE LAST MOVE, THAT I CAN MAKE BECAUSE I AM MIYO TAKANO.

WITH IT, I CAN SURPASS YOU.

I WILL TAKE YOUR THRONE.

...YOU'VE ROLLED ME SO MANY ONES.

YOU'VE TOYED WITH MY LIFE.

BUT...THIS TIME, I'LL OVERCOME EVEN THAT.

NO, I WON'T JUST OVERCOME IT.

I'LL MAKE SURE I'M NEVER A SLAVE TO YOUR WHIMS EVER AGAIN.

THEN GRANDPA AND I WILL BE GODS.

IZAAAA ZSHHHH

...YOU DID...

...HELP ME IN THE PAST, JUST ONCE.

HEH...

THE TEN-YEN COIN THAT BROUGHT ME TO GRANDPA.

THERE WAS A TEN-YEN COIN, COINCIDENTALLY LEFT IN THE PHONE BOOTH IN THE MOUNTAINS.

I THANK YOU FOR THAT — AND ONLY THAT.

IF NOT FOR THAT COIN YOU LEFT ME, I WOULDN'T BE HERE

– THAT TEN YEN YOU LENT ME!

AND NOW I'M GIVING BACK...

NOW WE'RE EVEN!

NOW!

OUR BAT-TLE...

...BEGINS !!

KO

PITA (FREEZE)

!?

PIN (FWIP)

THE COIN STOPPED —!?

WHAT ...!?

...WHAT HAPPENED ...?

BUT ...

CHARIN (CLINK)

THE TEN-YEN COIN...

...SHOT BACK AT ME?

KORO (ROLL)

KORO

KORO

はっ (HA (GASP))

THAT'S ABSURD...

GOD REFUSED ME...

はぁ。 (BA (JUMP))

.....!

...YOUR WILL.

IT WAS ALL...

TAKANO, SIR.

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

CHAPTER 17: DECLARATION OF WAR

IT WAS ALL YOUR WILL.

TAKANO, SIR.

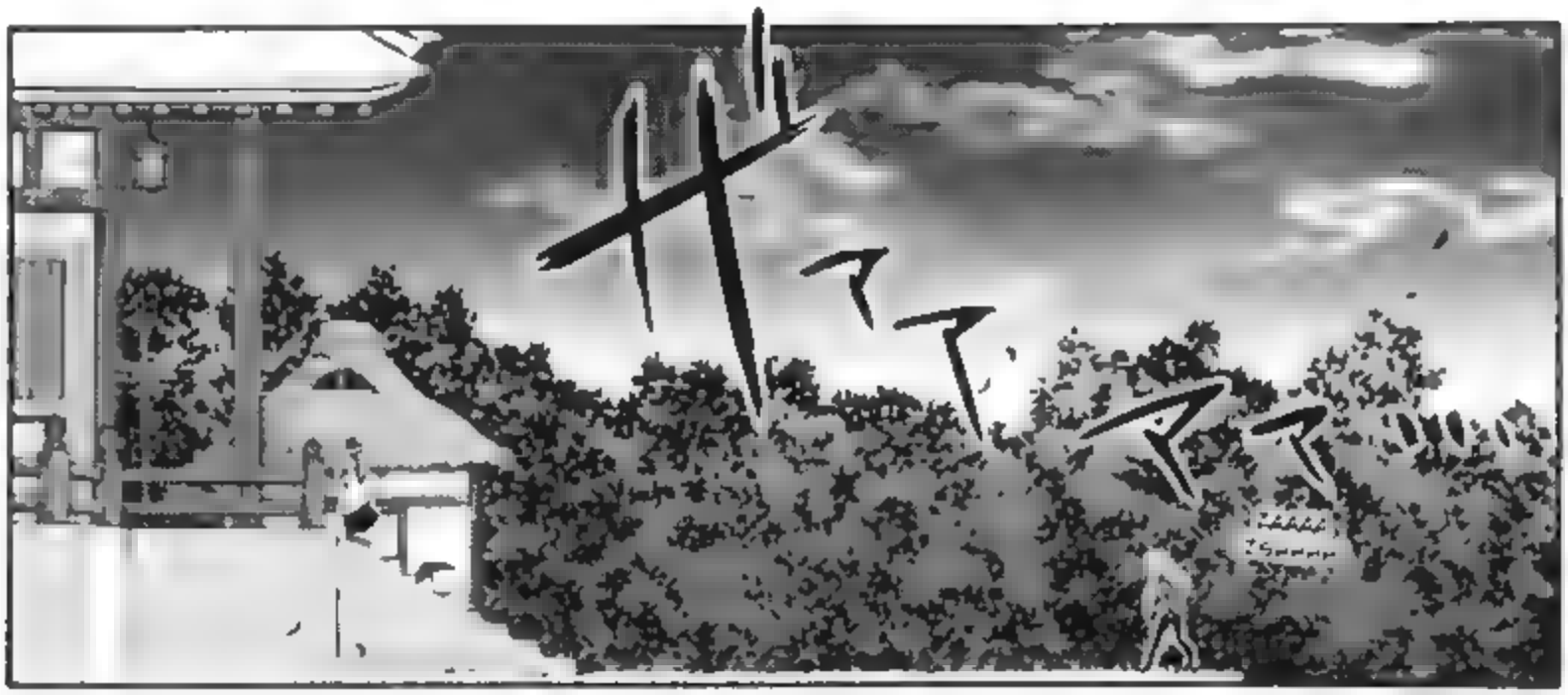
...HEH...

HA-HA-HA...

YOU...

...ARE THE GOD HERE...?

I MUST BE DREAMING.



THE GUARDIAN DEITY OF HINAMIZAWA.

YES... I AM CALLED OYASHIRO-SAMA.

KAA

KAA (CAW)

...RIKA FURUDE HAS BEEN MURDERED AGAIN AND AGAIN.

IN COUNTLESS WORLDS BEFORE THIS ONE...

...SHE WAS ALWAYS KILLED IN JUNE OF 1983.

BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SENT RIKA BACK...

KANA

KANA

KANA

KANA

CHIRP

I HAD THE POWER TO DO THAT.

EVERY TIME DEATH BEFELL HER, I REWOUND TIME FOR HER.

I MADE IT SO THAT SHE COULD LIVE A NEW LIFE, IN A DIFFERENT WORLD.

SOMEONE WITH A STRONG WILL.

SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO TAKE RIKA FURUDE'S LIFE.

...AND HAD HER LIFE TAKEN AWAY EVERY TIME.

WITHOUT THAT KNOWLEDGE, SHE'S REPEATED THIS JOURNEY FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS...

...NEITHER RIKA NOR I COULD EVER FIGURE IT OUT.

AS TO WHO THAT SOMEONE WAS...

BUT WE FINALLY FOUND THE ANSWER.

AND THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT FATE...

AND TOOK RIKA'S LIFE.

...IN A WORLD WHERE NO ONE RESORTED TO MURDER AND ALL THE MISFORTUNES SURROUNDING THE SONOZAKI FAMILY WERE REMOVED...

IN THE WORLD JUST BEFORE THIS ONE...

...WE FINALLY FOUND OUT.

IN A WORLD WHERE WE WERE ALL MASSACRED ...

...ENACTED OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE FOR THE FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW.

SOME-ONE WITH ENORMOUS POWER...

HHHH...

ZAAA (ZSHHH)

...WAS MIYO TAKANO...

...THIS WOMAN, AND HER STRONG WILL.

YES

...A STRONG WILL DETERMINES DESTINY.

BUT HUMANS HAVE THE POWER OF THEIR WILLS

GOD THROWS THE DICE OF DESTINY TO TOY WITH MANKIND.

...BY CONSTANTLY PUTTING FORTH EXTREME EFFORT...

...BY HAVING A FIRM WILL THAT NO ONE CAN BEND...

...WHICH CAN DRIVE THE POWER TO BREAK AWAY OF THE GOD'S CONTROL.

...TO THINK A HUMAN WOULD LEARN THAT.

THINK THAT SOMEONE WHO IS NOT ONE OF US, WHO HAVE LIVED HUN-

AN ABSOLUTE FUTURE.

I'M HONORED.

I ONCE THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS NO BEATING YOU, NO MATTER HOW HARD WE FOUGHT.

THAT'S WHY I GAVE IN TO YOU.

...I WON'T LET YOU BEAT ME.

...BUT I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON, SIR.

THE POWER OF BELIEF CAN MAKE MIRACLES THAT WILL OPEN A PATH TO THE FUTURE.

EXACTLY.

THE STRENGTH OF OUR FEELINGS WILL CREATE THE FUTURE WE DESIRE.

BASA (FWIP)

クス

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

カツン KATSUN

...CAN BEAT MINE?

カツン KATSUN

カツン KATSUN (CLACK)

SO DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR WILL...

...SO I WILL TEST YOU.

BI (POINT)

IT'S NOT FAIR THAT THE GODS CAN TEST MAN, BUT MAN MUSTN'T TEST THE GODS!

NOW BRING IT ON!!

AND I WILL DRAG YOU DOWN OFF YOUR GODLY THRONE!!

GU (CLENCH)

BUT I WON'T GIVE UP EVER AGAIN.

MY STRENGTH AND THAT OF MY FRIENDS PALES IN COMPARI-SON.

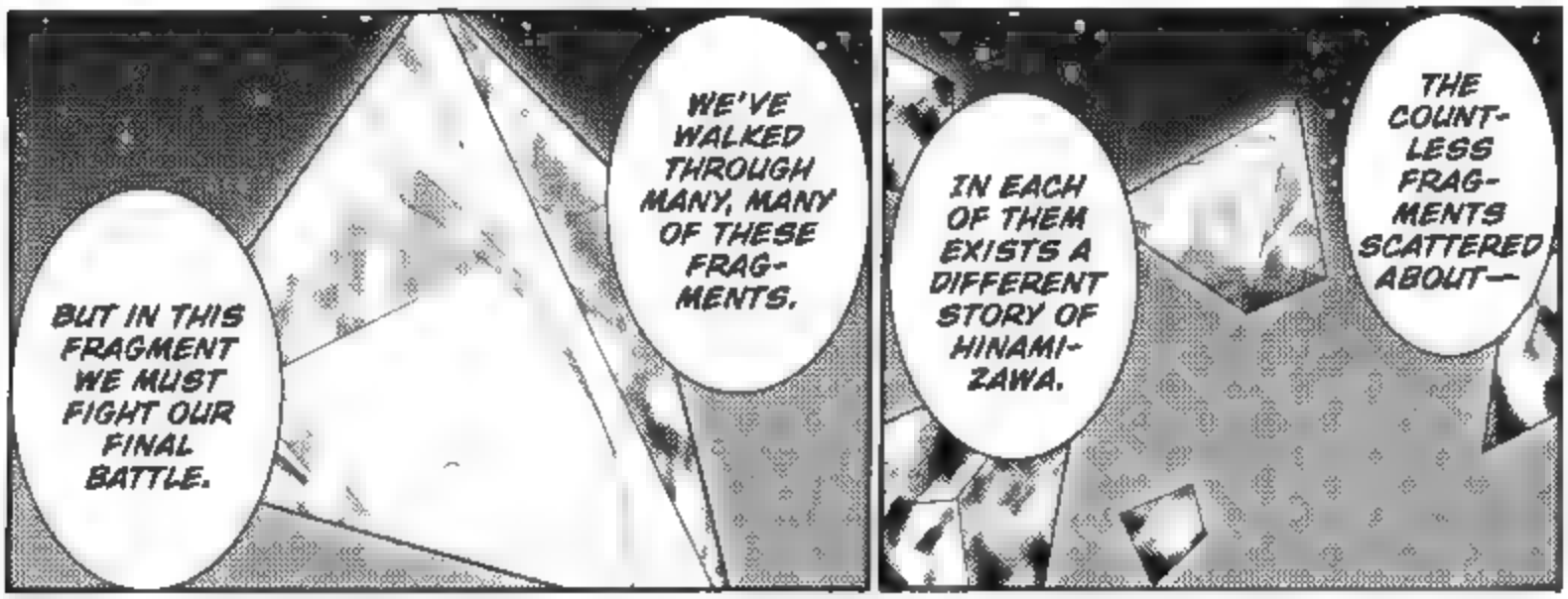
.. I KNOW.

I KNOW HOW POWER-FUL YOU ARE.

WE WILL NOT LET YOU BEAT US.

NO, HANYU!

YOU CAN'T BEAT HER YET.


BUT IN THIS FRAGMENT WE MUST FIGHT OUR FINAL BATTLE.
WE'VE WALKED THROUGH MANY, MANY OF THESE FRAG-MENTS.
IN EACH OF THEM EXISTS A DIFFERENT STORY OF HINAMI-ZAWA.
THE COUNT-LESS FRAG-MENTS SCATTERED ABOUT—

IT DOES INDEED APPEAR THAT ALL THE PAWNS ARE IN PLACE IN THIS FRAGMENT.

AS DID RENA ONE YEAR AGO.

KEIICHI HAS FINALLY TRANS-FERRED HERE.

AND NOT ONLY THEM— IRIE AND OOISHI TOO...

THEY ALL HOLD DEEP FEELINGS IN THEIR HEARTS.

THE FRIENDS THAT HAVE ENDURED THE TRAGEDIES IN SO MANY WORLD FRAGMENTS.

AND THERE'S MION, SHION, AND SATOKO...

JUST HOW MANY MYRIADS OF FEELINGS HAVE CONGREGATED?

HERE, IN THIS HINAMIZAWA, IN THIS 1983?

WE NEED ONE MORE GAME PIECE.

ONE THAT CAN BREAK THROUGH TAKANO'S ENORMOUS POWER.

BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH YET.

IF THOSE FEELINGS WERE TO JOIN TOGETHER, I KNOW THEY WOULD BECOME A GREAT POWER.

AS THINGS ARE, I CAN BE REWOUND TO THAT WORLD, BUT I STILL CAN'T BEAT TAKANO.

I NEED THE POWER OF ONE MORE MIRACLE.

AND TO GET IT, I NEED ONE MORE TIME.

SOMEWHERE IN ONE OF THESE COUNTLESS FRAGMENTS

PLEASE, RESPOND TO MY VOICE.

PLEASE.

ANSWER ME...

ANSWER ME...

ザワ
ZAWA

ザワ
ZAWA

ザワ
ZAWA
(MURMUR)

ザワ...
ZAWA

CON-FIRMING TRANS-MISSION.

DID SOMEONE CALL ME?

ZAWA

ZAWA ZAWA

...Kh-khgh... Nn?

No, no ■■■ called you.

Ha-ha. So even you get nervous?

Nah, that can't be it.

IN A CERTAIN FRAGMENT, 198X, SOMEWHERE IN TOKYO.

Detective Akasaka.

FU (FSH)

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE THE GREAT HINAMIZAWA DISASTER?

SHIN (SILENCE)

DA (DASH)

I'M STILL WORKING AS A DETECTIVE.

I'M GOING IN!!

GATAN (CLATTER)

BAN BAM

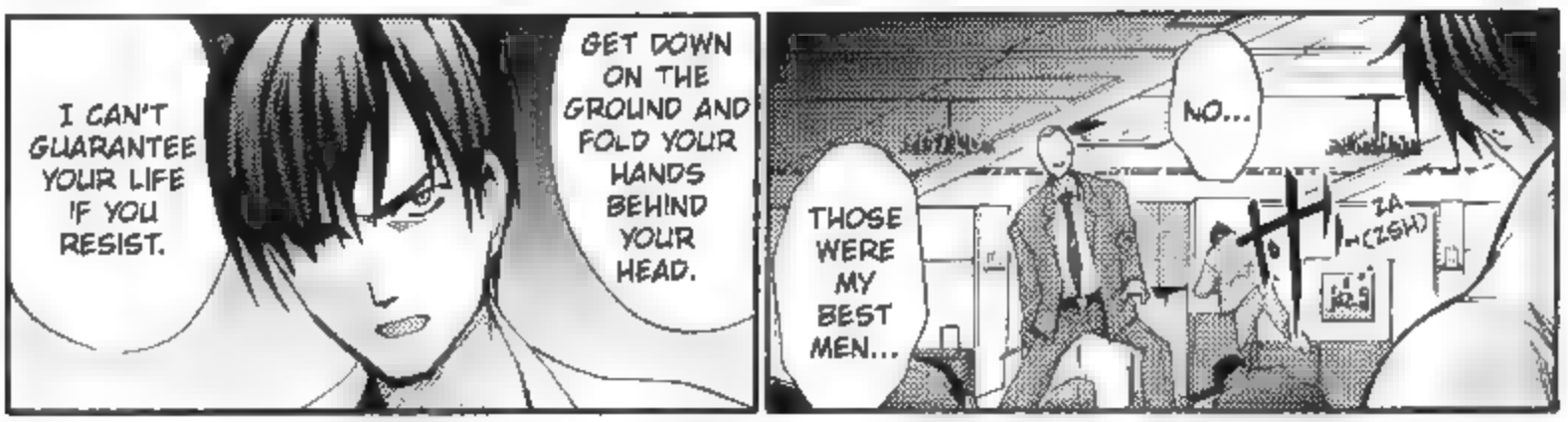
(SU)
(SS)

SON OF A—!

BAN (BAM)

DON (WHAM)

HYUUUUUU (WHOOOOSH)


I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOUR LIFE IF YOU RESIST.
GET DOWN ON THE GROUND AND FOLD YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD.
NO...
THOSE WERE MY BEST MEN...
ZA (ZSH)

I'M A DIPLOMAT!
IF YOU TOUCH ME, IT WILL BE AN INTERNA-TIONA- INCIDENT.
A-ARE YOU POLICE? I HAVE IMMUNITY.
Y...YOU BETTER NOT TOUCH ME.
ZA

WELL, GOOD FOR YOU.

WHAT'S YOUR SALARY?

DON (WHAM)

BORO (CRUMBLE)

...THIS IS AKASAKA. TARGET SECURED.

AIEEEEE...

...AH...

ZU (SLIDE)

THAT'S OUR AKASAKA-SAN.

WHOA...

HE CLEANED UP THE WHOLE LOT OF 'EM ALL BY HIMSELF.

IN 198X, I KEPT AT MY DETECTIVE WORK.

BUT I WAS STILL TORMENTED BY NEVER-ENDING REGRET.

バシィィン!!

BASHIIIN (WHAP)

AKASAKA-SAN DOESN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD "TIRED."

HE'S STILL PRACTICING ...?

BASHIIIN

BASHIIIIN (WHAP)

I HEARD THAT HE WAS ON A MISSION AND COULDN'T SAVE A LITTLE GIRL OR SOMETHING, AND IT MADE HIM PAINFULLY AWARE OF HOW POWERLESS HE WAS...?

HUH? THAT'S NOT WHAT I HEARD.

AND HE TOOK UP KARATE TO HELP HIMSELF FORGET ABOUT HER.

HEY, THIS IS JUST A RUMOR, BUT...

...I HEARD HIS WIFE DIED.

BIKU (WINCE)

...HEY.

WHY DON'T YOU STOP TALKING BEHIND PEOPLE'S BACKS AND START PRACTICING?

I CAN HEAR YOU.

BAN

BAN (BAM)

Y-YES-SIR!

カァ
KAA (CAW)
カァー
KAA
カァー
KAA

SURE.
EXCUSE US.
HI
GAYA
HI
GAYA
HI
GAYA (CLAMOR)
WELL, WE'RE HEADING HOME.

THEY WERE BOTH RIGHT. I HAD TWO REASONS FOR TAKING UP KARATE.
I DIDN'T THINK I WAS GOING AROUND TELLING PEOPLE, BUT I GUESS WORD GETS AROUND.
KYU (WIPE)

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I WENT TO HINAMIZAWA, A VILLAGE IN SHISHIBONE, ON A MISSION.

AT THE TIME, MY WIFE YUKIE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL.

SHE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS AND DIED.

SO I TURNED TO KARATE.

NO MATTER WHAT I DID, I COULDN'T WIPE AWAY THE SADNESS.

IT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF SHE HADN'T GONE UP TO THE ROOF TO PRAY FOR MY SAFETY.

...I REALIZED THAT I HAD FORGOTTEN SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.

...WHEN THE GREAT HINAMI-[redacted] DISASTER STRUCK...

BUT IN JUNE OF 1983...

...THAT SHE WANTED ME TO SAVE HER.

AND IN A ROUND-ABOUT WAY, SHE TOLD ME...

THERE WAS A LITTLE GIRL IN HINAMI-ZAWA WHO FORETOLD YUKIE'S DEATH.

THE GIRL'S NAME WAS RIKA FURUDE.

...SHE KNEW SHE WAS GOING TO DIE.

FIVE WHOLE YEARS BEFORE SHE WAS MURDERED...

THAT'S HOW I FOUND OUT.

WHEN I REMEMBERED, I CALLED MR. OOISHI.

...AT SOME POINT, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE GIRL.

BUT I WAS SO IMMERSED IN MY SADNESS OVER YUKIE...

JUST AS SHE HAD FORETOLD, RIKA FURUDE WAS MURDERED JUST BEFORE THE DISASTER.

AFTER THAT...

...I BURIED MYSELF EVEN DEEPER IN MY KARATE PRACTICE.

TEMPERED IN MIND AND BODY, I WAS ABLE TO SOLVE MANY CASES.

AND ABLE TO SAVE MANY LIVES.

.. BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRAIN, OR HOW MANY CASES I SOLVE .

. THE REGRET NEVER GOES AWAY.

IF...IF I HADN'T DROWNED MYSELF IN GRIEF OVER MY WIFE, IF I HAD REALIZED I NEEDED TO HELP THE GIRL...

...I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE HER.

AND BEFORE THAT, IF I HAD TAKEN HER WARNING MORE SERIOUSLY...

...THEN MAYBE YUKIE WOULDN'T HAVE DIED EITHER.

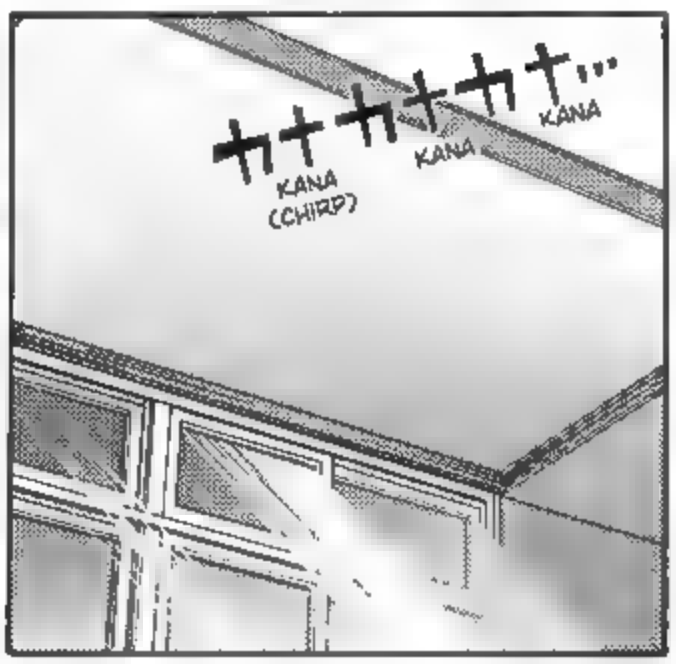
AND YET...

AND YET I...

...I FAILED.

DON (WHAM)

I COULDN'T SAVE EITHER OF THEIR LIVES!



DEAR GOD...

IF YOU REALLY EXIST...

...WILL YOU PLEASE HEAR MY PRAYER?

GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE.

...SEND ME BACK, JUST ONCE.

I CAN'T GIVE UP.

...I'LL SAVE THEM BOTH!!

THEN, THIS TIME...

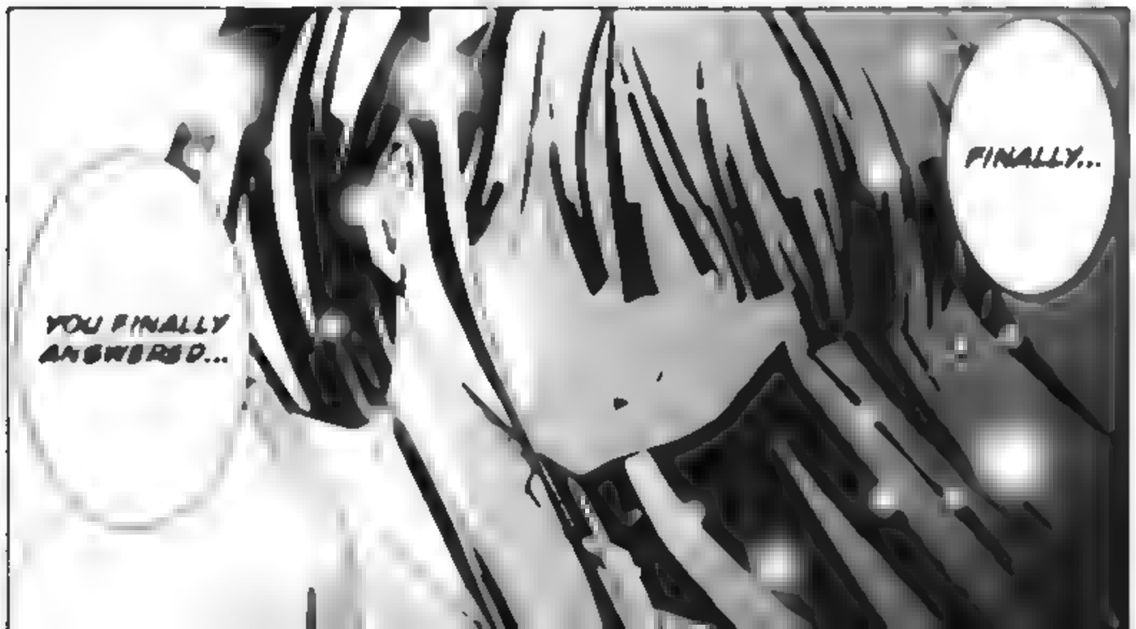
SO PLEASE!

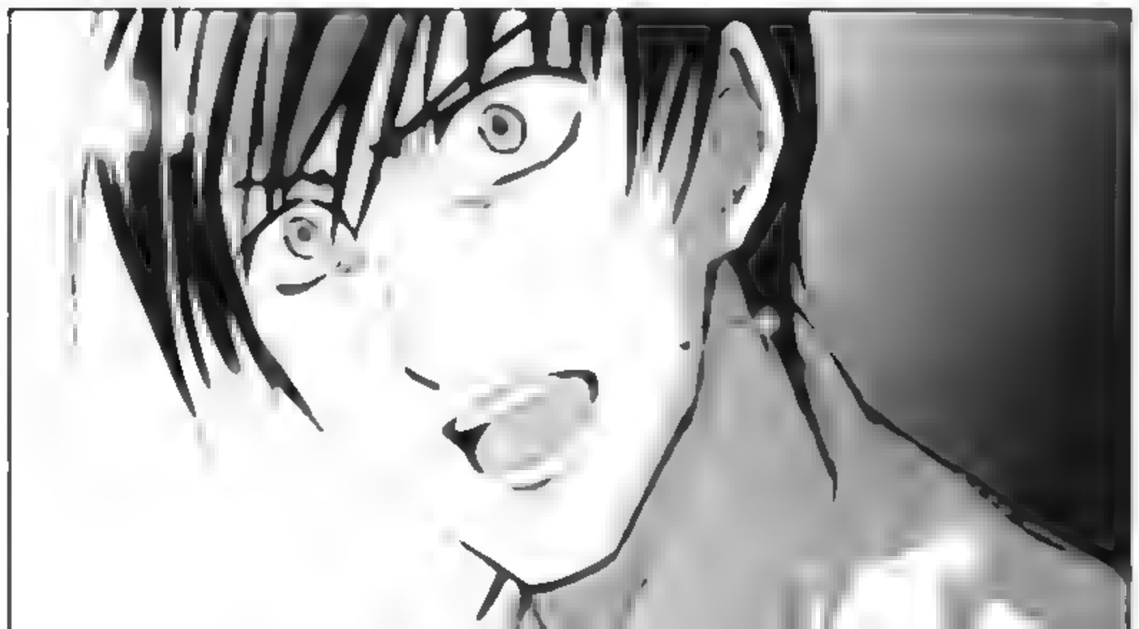
...A MIRACLE !!

GIVE ME...

!!

ポタ


FINALLY...
YOU FINALLY ANSWERED...



AKASAKA...

...RIKA-CHAN...?

AM I HALLUCI-NATING?

WHAT THE...? AM I DREAMING ?

THE MIRACLE WON'T HAPPEN.

IF WE WISH FOR A MIRACLE... AND YOU DON'T WISH FOR IT WITH US

WE NEEDED YOUR FEELINGS.

IF WE DON'T ALL WISH FOR THE MIRACLE, IT WON'T HAPPEN

IF BOTH SIDES DON'T STRETCH OUT TO EACH OTHER THEIR HANDS WON'T REACH.

BOTH SIDES REACH OUT...

THAT REALLY IS YOU, ISN'T IT...?

RIKA-CHAN

GYU (CLENCH)

IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW FAR I STRETCH—I CAN'T REACH BACK IN TIME.

BUT IT'S TOO LATE.

I CAN'T SAVE YOU...!

AKA-SAKA.

IF YOU WISH IT...

AKA-SAKA ...

BECAUSE YOUR INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION CAN HAVE A GREAT IMPACT...

...ON THE FEELINGS AND DESTINIES OF EVERY ONE OF US.

...YOU CAN MAKE A MIRACLE.

OUR MIRACLE.

は、

HA (GASP)

A MIRACLE ...?

I CAN GO BACK TO HINAMI-ZAWA 1978!?

ARE YOU SAYING I CAN GO BACK IN TIME!?

ばっ
BA (JUMP)

...BUT...

THAT YOU CAN'T DO.

JUST LIKE THAT BOY ONCE REALIZED.

...YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE THE AKASAKA IN THAT WORLD REALIZE.

IN THE WORLDS WHERE I DIED...

...YOU NEVER STOPPED CARING ABOUT ME.

THAT WOULD BE A GREAT MIRACLE.

.....

THANK YOU, AKASAKA.

SO I'LL ASK YOU ONE MORE TIME.

HELP ME.

...NO.

AND MY WISH FINALLY REACHED YOU.

I DIDN'T STOP EITHER.

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MANY HOURS I SPENT...

...ASKING FOR YOUR HELP.

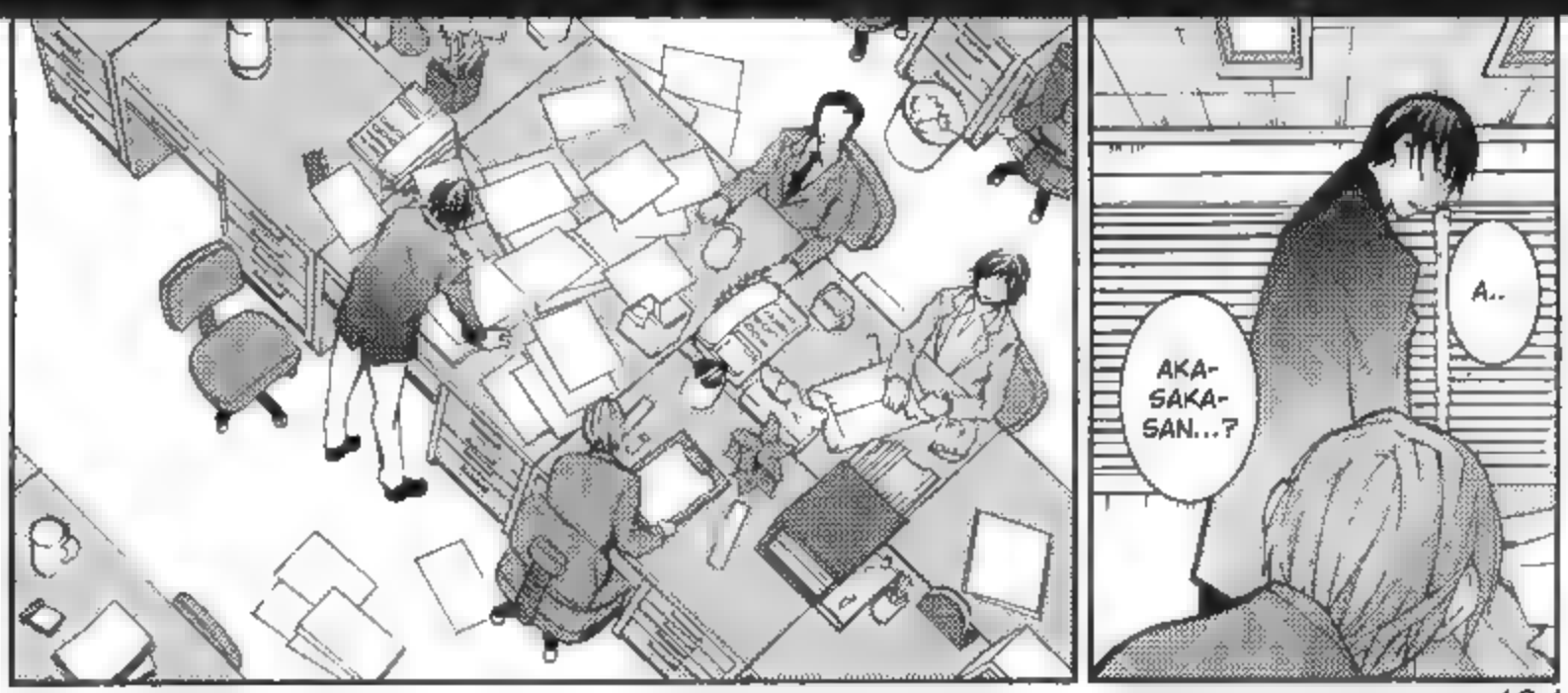
HELP US.

BAN
(BAM)

!!

WH... WHAT'S THE MATTER, AKASAKA-SAN...?

JUNE 1983. PUBLIC SECURITY DIVISION. THIS WORLD.



I JUST FELT LIKE SOMEONE WAS TELLING ME SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.
UH, OH... SORRY.
グイッ
GUI (WIPE)

YOU MAY BE RIGHT...

YOU WORK TOO HARD, AKASAKA-SAN.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT JUST TIRED...?
ZA (ZSH)

IT WAS LIKE I WAS HEARING A FAMILIAR VOICE FROM SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY.

WHAT WAS THAT...?

GASA

GASA (RUSTLE)

NOT IN THIS WORLD, BUT A DIFFERENT ONE.

BA (JUMP)

THIS IS...!!

HA (GASP)

OH. REMEMBER THAT BIG FIXER DIED THE OTHER DAY?

THIS IS A LIST OF HIS ILLEGAL EXPENDI-TURES.

HE WAS A CLEVER ONE. ...EVEN USED A HOSPITAL OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE AS A FRONT.

xxxx 0,000 yen	Irie Clinic	March 1975	September 1975	xxxx0,000 yen
xxxx 0,000 yen			February 1976	xxxx0,000 yen
xxxx 0,000 yen			March 1976	xxxx0,000 yen
xxxx 0,000 yen			August 1976	xxxx0,000 yen
			December 1976	xxxx0,000 yen

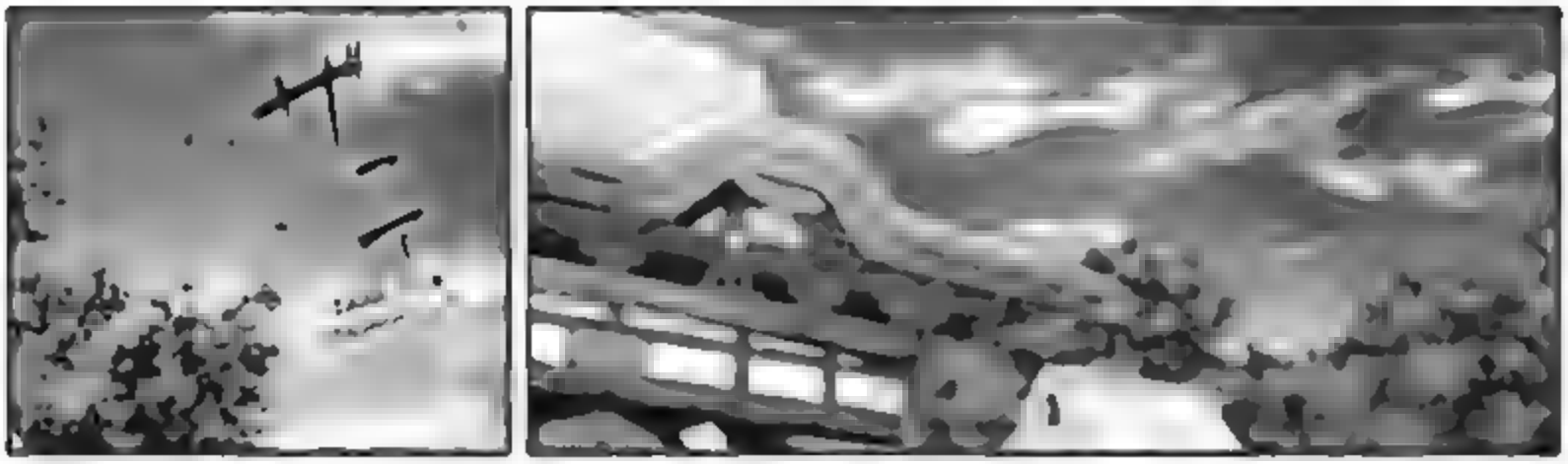
THE IRIE... CLINIC...

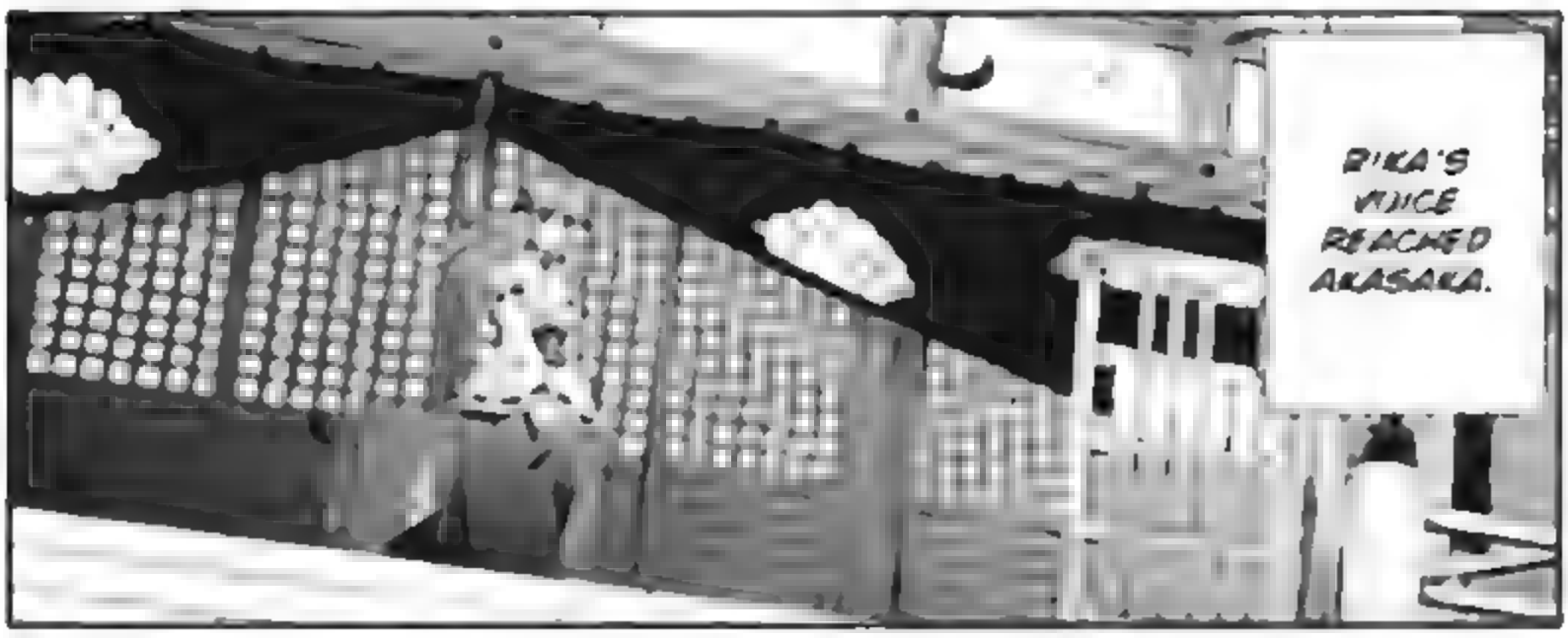
WHAT'S THE MATTER, AKASAKA-SAN?

I KNOW THAT PLACE ...

HUH?

I KNOW THAT PLACE.




RIKA'S VOICE REACHED AKASAKA.

THAT IS A VERY BIG MIRACLE.

...GAVE BIRTH TO A MIRACLE.

RIKA'S BELIEVING HEART...

UNLIKE ME.

SHE'S GAINED THE STRENGTH TO BELIEVE.

RIKA HAS GOTTEN STRONGER.

I'VE JUST BEEN BETRAYED SO MANY TIMES.

NOT JUST THAT...SO MANY TIMES SINCE I DESCENDED UPON THIS LAND THAT I CAN'T COUNT THEM.

SEEING RIKA'S DEATH REPEATING OVER AND OVER...

THAT'S WHY I STOPPED BELIEVING.

NOT BEING INVOLVED IS THE SAME AS NOT BEING.

BUT NOT BELIEVING IN ANYTHING MEANS NOT BEING INVOLVED IN ANYTHING.

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE, YOUR TRUST CAN'T BE BETRAYED

THAT'S WHY I WAS NEVER THERE.

—ALL I EVER DID WAS OBSERVE.

WHILE RIKA AND THE OTHERS ALL SUFFERED

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE— IF YOU DON'T BET ON THE COINS OF "HOPE"...

...YOU CAN NEVER WIN.

BUT IN THE LAST WORLD, THEY TAUGHT ME.

...THE BETTER YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING.

AND THE MORE COINS YOU HAVE...

SO NOW...

...I WILL BELIEVE ONCE MORE.

NOW, EVERYONE.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE A NEW STUDENT.

THIS IS HANYU FURUDE-SAN.

UUM. UUM. UUM.

OOOHH...

GETTING INVOLVED IN SOMETHING MEANS BEING PRESENT.

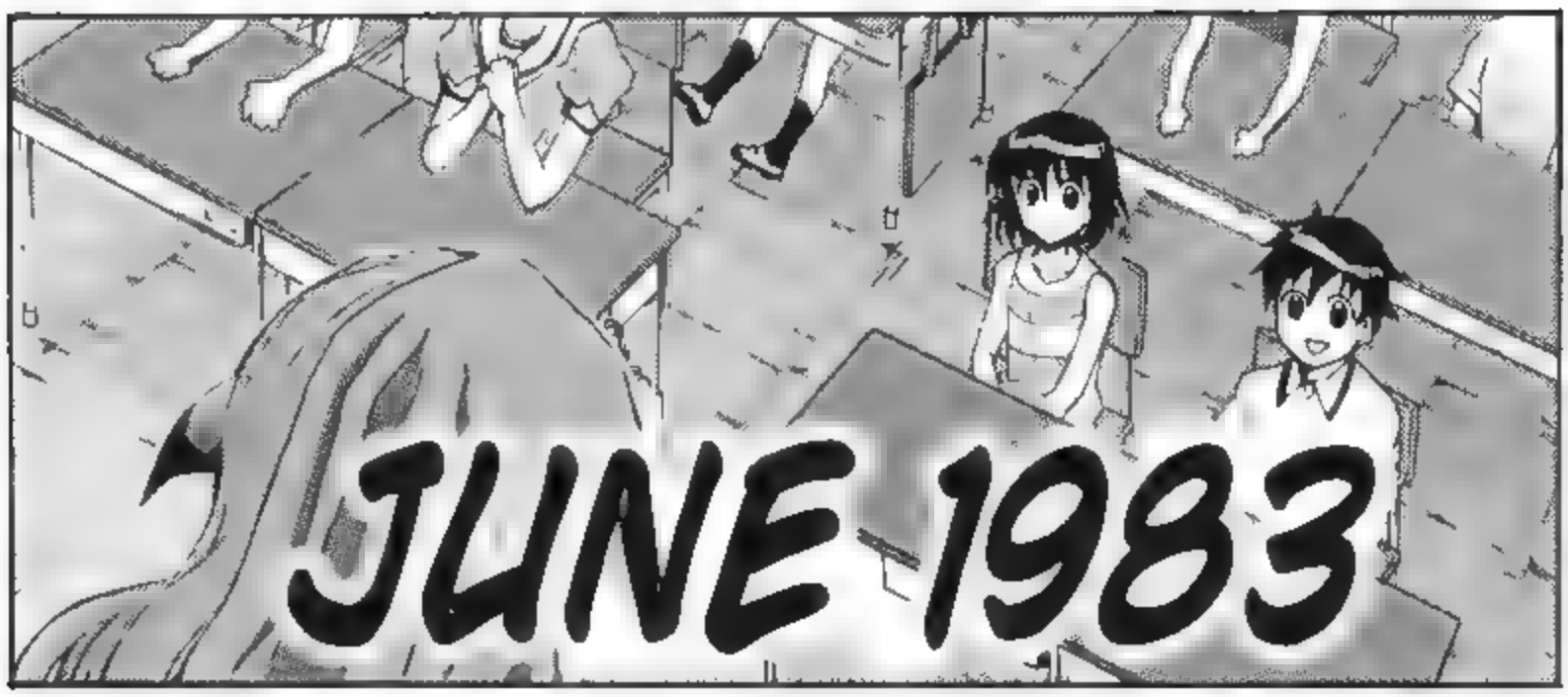
BELIEVING IN SOMETHING MEANS GETTING INVOLVED IN SOMETHING.

I NEED TO STOP BEING A SPECTATOR.

PART 6
WHY I AM HERE.

I'M BREAK
DOWN YOUR
DEFENSE

ALL THE PIECES ARE IN PLACE.


JUNE 1983

THE BATTLE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

CHAPTER 18: HANYU FURUDE

UM, CREAM PUFFS?

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?

I HAVEN'T SHOWN MYSELF IN FRONT OF PEOPLE SINCE THAT TIME.

AND IN THE END...

THEN, PEOPLE FEARED MY HORNS; THEY HATED AND SCORNED ME BECAUSE OF THEM.

...WHEN I TOOK HUMAN FORM AND CAME TO THIS LAND TO REMOVE THE DISCORD BETWEEN HUMANS AND DEMONS.

THAT ANCIENT TIME...

BUT I CAN'T RUN AWAY ANYMORE.

EVEN IF IT MEANS GETTING HURT AGAIN, IF IT WILL HELP BREAK DOWN DESTINY...

...THEN I WILL...

AFTER A LONG HIATUS, WE'RE FINALLY CALLING ANOTHER MEETING OF OUR ESTEEMED CLUB!

NOW THEN, LADIES AND GENTLE-MAN.

IT'S ABOUT TIME!

OHH!

RENA WON'T LOSE! I WON'T!

MEW.

ER, HUH?

BUT TODAY IS THE DAY THAT I—

HEH-HEH! I SEE YOU'RE ALL RARING TO GO!

UHH ...

HELLO, SIR...

OH? HANYU-CHAN?

SIGN: COURAGE

UHH, UHH, UHH... UM...

WHAT'S UP, HANYU? YOU DIDN'T GO HOME?

UHH, UHH, UHH.

UM... UM...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, HANYU-CHAN? IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

I...

I WANT...

...TO JOIN YOUR CLUB, SIRS!

EEEEEEEEEH!?

YOU SURPRISED ME.

カナカナカナ...

I'M GLAD MION LET YOU IN.

...YOU EVEN JOINED OUR CLUB!

NOT ONLY IS THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU LET EVERYONE SEE YOU AND THE FIRST TIME YOU CAME TO SCHOOL...

ALLLRIGHT! PASS MY TEST, AND YOU CAN JOIN!

VOLUNTARILY JUMPING RIGHT INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH! YOU MUST BE VERY RECKLESS INDEED!

BISHI (FWIP)

...SO?

UUH, UUH, UUH...YOU KNOW I CAN'T EAT SPICY FOODS! THAT'S JUST CRUEL, SIR!

I'LL HAVE TO [redacted] TO ADD SPEED EATING YOUR DREADED SUPER SPICY KIMCHI TO THE LIST OF PENALTY GAMES.

THE TEST TO GET IN WAS HARD, BUT I DID MY VERY BEST, SIR.

YOUR JOURNEY AND MINE WILL END HERE, SIR.

SO I...

...CHOSE TO BE HERE.

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHO IT IS THAT'S BEEN KILLING ME.

EVERY TIME, WITHOUT FAIL, SOMEONE MURDERS ME IN JUNE 1983.

AS IF IT IS MY DESTINY.

IF WE DON'T ALL BELIEVE, THE MIRACLE WON'T COME. WE CAN'T BEAT DESTINY.

IN THE LAST WORLD, YOU ALL TAUGHT ME.

MY TRUE ENEMY...

カナカナカナ…
KANA KANA KANA (CHIRP)

THE SIGHT OF HER TRUE ENEMY ENGRAVED ON HER EYES THROUGH THE PAIN.

WHAT RIKA SAW AS HER ENTRAILS WERE TORN FROM HER LIVING BODY.

グチュ
GUCHU SQUITCH

グチュ
GUCHU

...IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO REMEMBER IT YOURSELF.

WHAT HAP-PENED... IN THE LAST WORLD?

RIKA WILL BE REWOUND SOON.

THEN YOU WILL REMEMBER, SIR.

SO I CAN'T TELL YOU RIGHT NOW.

IF I TELL YOU THE MEMORIES FROM THE LAST WORLD BEFORE YOU'RE BROUGHT BACK, IT COULD CAUSE TROUBLE WITH THE REWIND.

BESIDES

THE NEXT DAY, AFTER SCHOOL.

UHH, UHH, UHH! YOUR TRAPS ARE SO VICIOUS, SATOKO, SIR!

VON (WHOOSH)

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, HANYU SAN!

BUN (FWOOSH)

BUN

MIIN (BUZZZZ)

MIIN

MIIN

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR HANYU TO GET USED TO CLUB ACTIVITIES.

SHE'S SO HAPPY TO PLAY WITH PEOPLE THAT SHE CAN'T CONTAIN HERSELF, SIR.

MEW!

BECHO (SPLAT)

YOU KNOW.

OH, LIKE

RENA

RENA FEELS LIKE SHE'S SEEN HANYU-CHAN AROUND

I FEEL LIKE HANYU-CHAN HAS BEEN HERE FOR MUCH LONGER THAN THAT.

LIKE SHE'S BEEN RIGHT BESIDE US, WATCHING US HAVE FUN TOGETHER ALL THIS TIME.

RENA

THAT'S WHY I'M SO HAPPY THAT SHE'S FINALLY JOINED US.

HEY.

IT'S GREAT THAT HANYU'S HAVING SUCH A GOOD TIME AND ALL.

BUT SHE HAS THOSE THINGS ON HER HEAD.

WON'T THEY COME OFF WHILE SHE'S RUNNING AROUND?

KEIICHI.

RENA COULD SENSE HANYU'S PRESENCE...

HUH? WHY NOT?

I HOPE YOU WON'T TALK ABOUT THOSE HORNS IN FRONT OF HANYU, SIR.

SHE CAN'T TAKE THEM OFF, SIR.

THEY'RE A LITTLE WEIRD, BUT THAT ACCESSORY GIVES HER CHARACTER.

SHE WAS BORN WITH THOSE HORNS, SIR.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY CAME FROM.

I ASKED HER, BUT THE PLACE SHE TOLD ME ABOUT...

ANYWAY, I JUST COULDN'T EVEN IMAGINE IT.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S ANYWHERE IN THIS UNIVERSE OR ANYWHERE IN THIS DIMENSION.

SAAAA (Shushing)

IT SAYS THAT LONG, LONG AGO, HANYU'S CLAN...

...ARRIVED IN THIS LAND AFTER A LONG JOURNEY.

HANYU'S HORNS...

...ARE WRITTEN ABOUT IN A FORBIDDEN TEXT, HANDED DOWN IN THE FURUDE FAMILY.

SHE'S EVEN BEEN HATED AND BULLIED BECAUSE OF THEM, SIR.

OH..

I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING. SORRY.

"THAT'S OKAY"

THE PLACE WHERE HANYU AND HER COMPANIONS ARRIVED WAS A BEAUTIFUL, CLEAR SWAMP.

IT WAS THE PROMISED LAND THAT THEY HAD ALWAYS YEARNED TO FIND.

BUT THERE WAS ALREADY A VILLAGE THERE.

...THERE WERE ALREADY PEOPLE LIVING THERE.

HANYU AND HER PEOPLE HOPED TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH THE VILLAGERS.

BUT THE VILLAGERS COULDN'T ACCEPT THE WANDERING PEOPLE.

AND SADLY, TRAGEDY FOLLOWED.

TO STOP THE VIOLENCE, HANYU TOOK ON THE FORM OF A HUMAN...

...AND DESCENDED UPON FURUDE SHRINE.

THE PRIEST AT FURUDE SHRINE REFUSED TO MAKE PEACE WITH THE WANDERERS.

THE PEOPLE FEARED HER HIDEOUS FORM.

BUT FOR SOME REASON, HER HORNS WERE THE ONE THING SHE COULDN'T HIDE.

EVEN THEN, THE VILLAGERS COULD NOT MAKE PEACE WITH THE WANDERERS.

EVENTUALLY, THE PRIEST'S SUCCESSOR SAW HANYU AND FELL IN LOVE WITH HER. SHE BORE HIS CHILD.

AND SO HANYU MADE A DECISION.

THE VILLAGERS COULDN'T FORGIVE THAT CRIME.

BLOOD WAS SPILLED IN THE VILLAGE BECAUSE OF THE WANDER-ERS' ARRIVAL.

ゴロロロ…!!

GORORORORO... RUMBLE

...HANYU CHOSE TO BECOME A SACRIFICE, AND THE ONE WHO WAS TO STRIKE HER DOWN...

ACCORDING TO THE FORBIDDEN TEXT...

SHE, THE MONSTER, WOULD ACCEPT THE BURDEN OF THAT CRIME...

...AND ATONE FOR THAT SIN BY LETTING THE HUMANS DESTROY HER.

...WAS HER DAUGHTER, OUKA FURUDE.

THE FIRST OF THE FURUDE FAMILY.

MOTHER.

NO ONE WANTS TO BEAR THE BURDEN. THEY PUSH IT BACK AND FORTH, TRYING TO MAKE OTHERS TAKE IT.

BUT IF I, A DEMON, TAKE THAT BURDEN AND LET THE PEOPLE DRIVE ME AWAY...

THEN THE PEOPLE WILL BE FREE OF THE FATE THAT CAUSES THEM TO DOUBT EACH OTHER, TO FIGHT WITH EACH OTHER.

...AND SO, MY CHILD...

PEOPLE LIVE THEIR LIVES LOST IN SIN.

AND IF THEY CANNOT PUSH THOSE SINS ONTO SOMEONE ELSE, THEY CANNOT GO ON LIVING.

WHY MUST A CHILD KILL AND BURY HER OWN MOTHER?

DO NOT ASK, MY CHILD.

I AM NOT HUMAN. MY HORNS PROVE THAT I AM A DEMON.

THE ROLE OF A DEMON IS TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF THE CALAMITIES THAT BEFALL THE HUMAN WORLD.

ZAAAAA (ZSHHHH)

WHY MUST YOU, ONE WOMAN, BEAR ALL THE SINS OF THE HUMAN WORLD!?

THAT IS WHY I WANT YOU TO DESTROY ME.

THEY MAY ALL SPEAK ILL OF ME, CALLING ME *******.

BUT YOU ALONE SPEAK OF ME AS A HUMAN.

DUUUN BOOOOMD

MY CHILD.

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE TO SPEAK OF ME IN THAT WAY.

BUT ARE YOU SAYING THAT THOSE HORNS [redacted] MAKE YOU SOMETHING INHUMAN?

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND MOTHER

INDEED YOU CANNOT HIDE YOUR HORNS

THAT IS THE DESTINY I ACCEPT, AS ONE WHO IS NOT HUMAN.

STRIKE ME, DRIVE ME OUT, SEND ME DRIFTING DOWN THE MARSH, AND SINK ME IN THE SWAMP

...TO ME, YOU ARE NOTHING IF NOT HUMAN!

EVEN WITH THOSE HORNS ...

.....

...MOTHER.

DOOOOM BOOOOM

THAT WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

ZAAAA (ZSHHH)

HER FLESH WAS DRIFTED DOWN THE MARSH, AND HER REMAINS WERE SUNK TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SWAMP.

THEN, OUKA STRUCK HANYU DOWN, DESTROYING HER.

...HANYU, WHOM PEOPLE FEARED AND DESTROYED BECAUSE OF HER GROTESQUE HORNS...

...HAS NEVERTHELESS CHOSEN TO APPEAR BEFORE PEOPLE AGAIN IN ORDER TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF OUR DESTINY.

AND NOW, AFTER THE PASSING OF MANY, MANY YEARS...

AAAAHH! A-ARE YOU OKAY!?

I NEED TO BE REWOUND SOON SO I CAN GET READY FOR THE COMING FIGHT.

AS A DESCENDANT OF THE FURUDE FAMILY, I MUST NOT DISAPPOINT HER.

あぅ UHH!

あぅ UHH!

はっ HA (GASP)

ぐっ GU (CLENCH)

HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WHAT IS IT? WHAT HAS HAPPENED!?

SHE WAS PLAYING AROUND AND SHE TRIPPED.

SHE ROLLED DOWN THE SLOPE AND

WHAT!?

!!

ビクッ..

...TAKANO...

OH, YOU KNOW MY NAME?

..COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU DO LOOK FAMILIAR...

HANYU, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

TOMITAKE-SAN! TAKANO-SAN!!

ダッ

DA (DASH)

NO, I COULDN'T HAVE MET YOU BEFORE.

I-I'M ALL RIGHT, SIR...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, HANYU-CHAN? DOES IT HURT ANYWHERE?

BUT ISN'T THAT CONVENIENT? SHE FALLS DOWN A CLIFF, AND RIGHT THERE IS A NURSE.

SHE JUST FELL RIGHT ON TOP OF US. IMAGINE OUR SURPRISE.

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND. ARE YOU A NEW FRIEND OF OURS?

SO YOUR NAME IS HANYU-CHAN?

HMMM? STILL...

YES, THAT'S RIGHT!

SHE JUST TRANSFERRED TO OUR SCHOOL YESTERDAY.

ヒク

WHAT...IS THIS?

I MEAN, THEY MAKE HER LOOK LIKE...

HOW UNUSUAL. IS IT A TOY?

AH-HA-HA-HA! THOSE ARE HANYU-CHAN'S CHARM POINT. DON'T TAKE THEM OFF, OKAY?

GI (PULL)

OH, IS THAT SO?

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE VERY CUTE...

Gui

Gu. (TUG)

.....NN!

...A MON-STER.

DON'T YOU THINK?

GU (GRIT)

...TAKANO.

AH...

...RIKA-CHAN.

DOLIN BOOM

I'M SO SORRY. UM... HANYU-CHAN.

AND...

HANYU IS NOT A MONSTER, SIR.

SAY THAT AGAIN AND YOU'LL PAY, SIR.

HA (GASP)

I NEVER MEANT TO SUGGEST SUCH A THING.

HEE HEE.

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO LIKE TAKANO.

SHE'S ALWAYS SO QUICK TO SAY THESE THINGS.

WELL, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US.

IF YOU START HURTING ANYWHERE, COME BY THE CLINIC, OKAY?

SU (SSK)

YOU JUST REWOUND, DIDN'T YOU, SIR...?

RIKA...

AND THAT JUST HAPPENED TO ME RIGHT NOW.

WHEN I COME INTO A WORLD FROM ANOTHER FRAGMENT, WE CALL IT "REWINDING."

.....

YES...

THEN YOU REMEMBER, SIR?

OUR ENEMY.

OUR TRUE ENEMY.

MIYO TAKANO.

...
TAKANO
...

ZAAAA
(SHHHH)

HEY, RIKA-CHAN! HANYU!

HUH? WHAT'S UP, YOU TWO?

HRRR...

RIKA?

I JUST REWOUND FROM A DIFFERENT FRAGMENT. THAT MUCH I KNOW.

SO HANYU ...

BUT...

I HAVE NO MEMORIES ...

...OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE EARLIER FRAGMENT.

...I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.

WHAT?

...IT'S TAKANO, SIR!

YOU REALLY CAN'T REMEMBER, SIR!?

IT...

THAT WOMAN!

...AS YOU SUFFERED HER TEARING YOUR BELLY OPEN!

YOUR TRUE ENEMY! YOU FINALLY BURNED HER NAME INTO YOUR MEMORY ...

ZAAAA (ZSHHHH)

DID SOMETHING GO WRONG WITH THE REWIND BECAUSE MY POWERS HAVE WEAKENED...?
NO...

THIS IS OUR VERY LAST CHANCE.
AND YOU'VE FORGOT-TEN ...?

THIS CAN'T BE...!
WE DON'T HAVE ANY POWER LEFT TO REWIND AGAIN...
ZAA CZSHH

ダラン
DARAN (DANGLE)

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE COTTON DRIFTING.

I WAS SUPPOSED TO KEEP MY MEMORIES FROM THE LAST FRAGMENT.

BUT I FAILED.

HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC ❷ END

Higurashi

WHEN THEY CRY

FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC

©Ryukishi07/Supervised/Produced by Nitroplus & Higurashi Project

ABOUT THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC": THE CORRECT SOLUTION

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

HELLO, I'M RYUKISHI07.

IN THIS VOLUME, WE HAVE THE LONG-AWAITED APPEARANCE OF AKASAKA. I DIDN'T THINK THAT I MYSELF...I MEAN, THAT AKASAKA WOULD BE SUCH A POPULAR CHARACTER. MAYBE HE'S HIGURASHI'S EVER-IMPORTANT, STANDARD "GOOD-LOOKING GUY" CHARACTER.

AH! BUT SOME PEOPLE SUSPECT HIM OF HAVING A THING FOR LITTLE GIRLS...NO, NO, HE DOESN'T! AKASAKA IS WORKING HARD TO HELP RIKA-CHAN (LAUGH).

THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC" STILL HAS A WAYS TO GO YET. FOLLOWING AKASAKA'S LEAD, OOISHI GETS TO SHOW US HOW MANLY HE CAN BE IN THE NEXT VOLUME. I DO HOPE THAT YOU WILL SEE NOT ONLY THE CHILDREN'S BATTLE IN THIS STORY, BUT THE ADULTS' BATTLES AND CONFLICTS AS WELL.

WELL THEN, I PRAY THAT WE MEET AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME.

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS FAR. IT'S SO COOL WHEN HANYU AND MIYO-SAN CONFRONT EACH OTHER, ISN'T IT? THE CLASH OF CONVICTION VERSUS CONVICTION. NOW ALL THE GAME PIECES ARE IN PLACE, AND THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC" HAS FINALLY REACHED THE SETTING OF 1983 HINAMIZAWA. AFTER EVERYTHING, STARTING WITH THE "ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC," GOING THROUGH ALL THE QUESTION AND ANSWER ARCS, SPINNING THE THREADS OF THE WORLD FRAGMENTS, THIS IS WHERE IT BRINGS US, AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME ALL THE MORE EMOTIONALLY INVESTED IN IT. I WILL DO MY BEST TO KEEP DRAWING THE EMOTIONS OF THE HIGURASHI CHARACTERS. PLEASE KEEP READING.

THIS SUMMER, VOLUMES FOUR AND FIVE OF THE "FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC" ARE BEING RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY, SO I WANTED TO MAKE THE AFTERWORD REALLY CUTE, AND THEN I WENT CRAZY WITH THE ART UNDER THE JACKETS. IT MAY HAVE BEEN A KIND OF ADVENTURE I HADN'T HAD IN A WHILE. IF YOU FEEL SO INCLINED, THEN PLEASE, TAKE A LOOK UNDER THE JACKET.

BUT, AS USUAL, I'M BAD AT EXPRESSING MYSELF IN WORDS, SO I FEEL EMBARRASSED AND VERY APOLOGETIC. I'LL WORK HARD AT DRAWING.

KARIN SUZURAGI

-SPECIAL THANKS-

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR:
RYUKISHI07-SAMA, BT-SAMA, YATAZAKURA-SAMA, TOKIBI-SAMA, TSUBAKI NARUSE-SAMA, NEKOZAKURA-SAMA, KAKUMU-SAMA

MY EDITORS:
KOIZUMI-SAMA, KUBOTA-SAMA

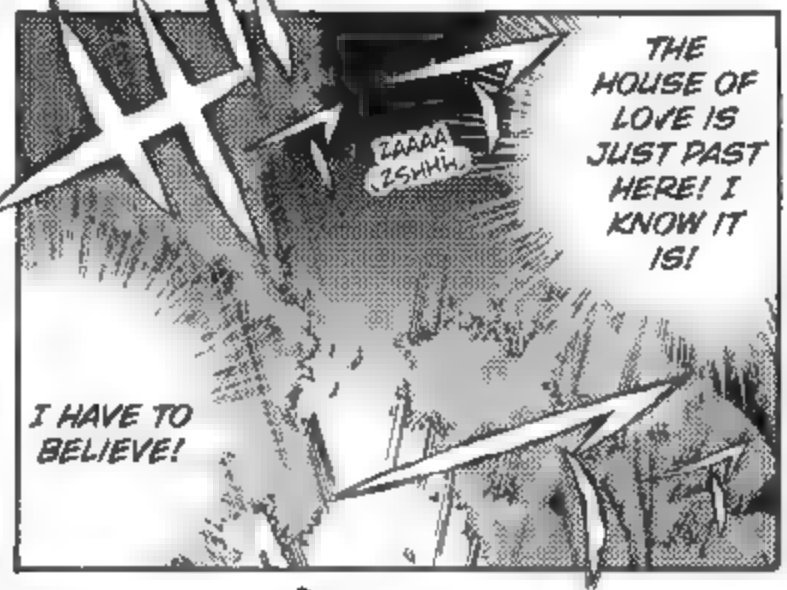
MY STAFF:
SHIGETOMO TANAKURA-SAMA, NAYU Y-SAMA, NIWAKO-SAMA, TOMOKA FURUTA-SAMA, YF-SAMA, YO-SHUN-SAMA

AND YOU!

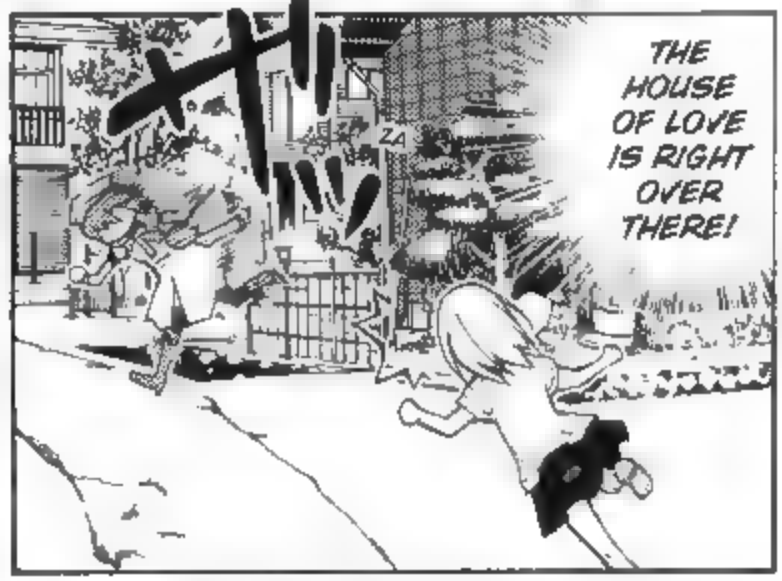
I TOOK HER IN OFF THE STREETS! OHH ...
OOH!
RENA. KIDNAP-PING IS A CRIME, YOU KNOW.
WHAT DO I DO ...?

IF I CAN MAKE IT TO THE HOUSE OF LOVE, I'LL BE SAVED!
TANASHI! STOP!

UM, I'M MIYOKO ...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?


ZAAAA ZSHHH.
THE HOUSE OF LOVE IS JUST PAST HERE! I KNOW IT IS!
I HAVE TO BELIEVE!

LET'S CALL HER "MEW-MEW"!
MIYOKO-SAN?


ZA
THE HOUSE OF LOVE IS RIGHT OVER THERE!

THEY'RE TAKING MY UNIQUE CHARACTER TRAIT!?
MEW-MEW!
MROW!
MROW!

SURI (SNUGGLE)
HUH?
I FOUND AN ADOW-ABLE WITTLE GIRL!
I'M TAK-ING YOU HOME WITH ME!
SURI

BIKU (WINCE)
WHERE ARE YOU, TANA-SHI!?

I WIN!
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD, RIKA-CHAN.
I SEE YOU'RE GOOD AT GAMES, MEW-MEW.

AH! MEW-MEW!?
NOOOO! HE'S GO-ING TO CATCH ME! HE'LL KILL ME!
DA (DASH)

YOU'VE BEEN GOING AFTER MY CARDS, HAVEN'T YOU?

OOH...
WHAT A STRANGE GIRL...

NIKO (BEAM)

WILL THE DAY COME FOR A RE-MATCH!?
THAT CHARACTER-STEALING WENCH. I'LL SETTLE THE SCORE SOMEDAY.
GOGOGOGOGO (RUMBLE)

DON'T TELL ME SHE'S DOING THAT ON PUR-POSE...?
MROW

WOULD YOU PLEASE NOT DOCTOR PHOTOS OF ME!?

IN THAT CASE, I CAN AT LEAST USE THE CLUB TO ENJOY ALL THE SEASONS!

カナカナカナ…
KANA KANA KANA (CHIRP)

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TRY, I CAN'T MAKE IT PAST SUMMER OF 1983.

DARK RIKA-CHAN'S ADOWABLE TOO!

OHH!

I GUESS TODAY WE SEE THE COMING OF DARK RIKA-CHAN.

THE LOSER WILL DRESS UP FOR WHATEVER DAMN SEASON I TELL THEM TO, SIR.

OHH!

AND THEN...

DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS

JANUARY: NEW YEAR'S

OCTOBER: HALLOWEEN

みかん

BOX: ORANGES

OUR CLUB COSTUMES ARE WAY TOO EXHI-BITIONIST.

THEY'RE ALL SUCH PER-VERTED CHOICES.

FEBRUARY: SETSUBUN

NOTE: SETSUBUN IS A JAPANESE HOLIDAY CELEBRATING THE END OF WINTER. IT INCLUDES A RITUAL OF THROWING BEANS TO DRIVE AWAY DEMONS.

...WAS GOING TO GIVE HER A TEDDY BEAR AS A GIFT.
APPAR-ENTLY SATOKO'S BROTHER SATOSHI, WHO'S BEEN MISSING...
AND THAT LITTLE WITCH HAS GOT A SAD LOOK ON HER FACE.
IT'S JUNE 24, 1983. SATOKO'S BIRTHDAY.

IN THAT CASE.

SA-TOKO!
THIS WILL MAKE SATOKO HAPPY!!
...TRY IT ON!
WELL, LET'S ...
GET 'EM CHEAP!
I'LL GIVE HER A TEDDY BEAR!
BUT I GOT IT!
I DIDN'T EARN ENOUGH AT MY PART-TIME JOBS. ALL I COULD GET WAS THIS COSTUME ...

KYAAAAAAA!

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

HELP ME!

THE ZIPPER'S BROKEN! I CAN'T GET IT OFF!

LABEL: BEAR

...WAS CHILLINGLY COOL.

NOOOOOOOO!!

THE HINAMIZAWA SUMMER OF 1983...

HIGURASHI
WHEN THEY CRY
FESTIVAL ACCOMPANYING ARC ②

RYUKISHI07
Karin Suzuragi

Translation: Alethea Nibley and Athena Nibley

Lettering: AndWorld Design

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY Festival Accompanying Arc, Vol. 3, 4
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First Yen Press ebook Edition: April 2014

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-23781-9

App ISBN: 978-0-316-23893-9